Stone Church of the Brethren

January 14, 2024

"Almost always, the creative, dedicated minority has made the world better." - Martin Luther King Jr.

Welcome

Pastor Ben

Prelude	Siyahamba/This Little Light of Mine	African Spirituals/
	Loren & Donna Rhodes	arr. Sandra Eithum

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: bell hooks writes,

"Rarely, if ever, are any of us healed in isolation."

All: We gather in community for healing, for courage, for growth,

One: Recognizing that our body is not whole,

All: Even as our spirits long to be.

One: Together, we enter the difficult work of seeing fully,

All: Seeing others, and seeing ourselves.

One: We could embrace despair,

All: But we choose to sing, we choose faith,

One: We choose community, we choose hope.

*Song	Lift Every Voice and Sing^	579
CHILDREN'S TIME		Pastor Cindy
SONG We Shall Walk Through the Valley (Soloist vs. 1,2; then all together vs. 1) Abby Morgan		412
INVITATION TO L	TANY FOR A DARKER FAITH	
SCRIPTURE READ	ING Selections from Amos 5	

Reading	from A Tough Mind and a Tender Heart
SCRIPTURE	Selections from Amos 5
Reading	from A Tough Mind and a Tender Heart

UNISON PRAYER FOR A NEW WAY OF THINKING

ANTHEM

We praise you God, because from your tough mind and tender heart, you have looked upon us equally. But we have made your love look more favorably on some. We pray that in our worship together, you may help us see how some have benefited from a certain sense of your love while others have not. We believe in justice even when we see and perpetuate injustice. May your tough mind and soft heart help us in our racism. Help us find courage to hear what we need to hear and engage with one another and repent, becoming better people to one another. Amen.

I Believe^^

Mark A. Miller

I believe in the sun, even when it's not shining. I believe in love, even when I don't feel it. I believe in God, even when God is silent.			
PRAYERS OF T	гне С оммині	ТҮ	
Song of Pra	YER	Wade in the Water^	446, vs. 1,2,5
READING	from Dr. Ki	ing's Letter from Birming	ıham Jail
One: God, se		e only sense the urgency	-
demod	cratic proces	and our needs. Why do I sses for justice when it is 1 I need justice for mysel	for others, and am
h		change us, rough conversion. irit create in us a true c	hange.

One: We confess that we are fearful and that we are angry when we

feel that others don't follow "proper order" and laws that we follow in order to make changes.

All: We confess that we are too quick to defend things that we consider sacred- the US flag, the anthem, private properties, public symbols – while ignoring the pain of people.

One: We confess that we have blamed Black people for their violence against each other without understanding that it is the lack of basic conditions of life that creates violence and dysfunction.

All: We confess that we do not know how to handle it and feel safer when they are put in jail.

One: We confess that we don't know the basics of the history of racism in this country and how this country was built on the backs of Indigenous, Black, brown, and other marginalized people.

All: We confess that we do not voluntarily share our power.

One: We cannot change and so we pray: help us change! In your mercy, help me change.

SILENCE

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

INSTRUMENTAL INTERLUDE	Meditation in C	John Dixon
	Loren Rhodes	

READING from Dr. King's Letter from Birmingham Jail

UNISON PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION

God of radical love,

Help us let go of our need to uphold "order", to foster a common "peace" - that really just means we won't need to change anything - much less ourselves.

Help us move away from that place where order and decency is a facade for the protection of white people. Give me courage.

May we finally see that we are not free, unless our siblings are free. Give us voices and words to speak, to you, to each other, to our family of faith, to those in power.

Help me sit and listen with those who are suffering. Help me change, O God, help us change. Amen.

This Little Light of Mine^^	401
	This Little Light of Mine^^

READING from Dr. King's Letter from Birmingham Jail

UNISON PRAYER FOR THE PATH AHEAD

May we be those who can understand the deep groans and passionate yearnings of the oppressed race. May we join in solidarity with our Black siblings.

May we go where they are, eat a common meal, ask what it is to live the lives they live. Help us visit each other. May our church be a co-creator of justice.

May we see, hear, and sense the anxiety, fears and all the challenges of growing up as people of color in this country. May we engage in deep listening, now and for the days to come!

In your mercy, God, make it so... Amen

Reading	from Dr. King's Nobel Peace Prize Spe	eech
*Song	Guide My Feet^^	546 vs. 1,3,5,6
Sending		Pastor Ben
Postlude	Postlude on "Lift Every Voice and Sin Loren & Donna Rhodes	g″arr. John Barr

*Please Rise, as Able, in Body or Spirit ^Public Domain ^^Music reprinted with permission under One License # A-723165



