

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* 412
(Soloist vs. 1,2; then all together vs. 1)
Abby Morgan

INVITATION TO LITANY FOR A DARKER FAITH

SCRIPTURE READING Selections from Amos 5

READING from *A Tough Mind and a Tender Heart*

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UNISON PRAYER FOR A NEW WAY OF THINKING

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.

ANTHEM *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 THE COMMUNITY

SONG OF PRAYER *Wade in the Water*[^] 446, vs. 1,2,5

READING from Dr. King's *Letter from Birmingham Jail*

RESPONSIVE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

One: God, sometimes we only sense the urgency of justice when it has to do with us and our needs. Why do I believe in long democratic processes for justice when it is for others, and am so impatient when I need justice for myself?

**All: God who can change us,
help us go through conversion.
May your Spirit create in us a true change.**

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

