



Justice Sunday: MLK Weekend

United Christian Church of Austin

JANUARY 15, 2023

10:00 AM

– GATHERING –

PRELUDE

Nicholas Jimenez, *Pianist*

WELCOME

Rev. Anna Kreisle, *Senior Minister*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THRESHOLD MOMENT

“MLK Day”

by the Salt Collective

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Walt Case, *Lector*

One: There’s a voice, strong and clear, ringing out far and near,

All: **“Let justice roll down!”**

One: Like the rush of a stream, comes a powerful dream,

All: **“Let justice roll down!”**

One: Let the earth be restored, every soul be reformed!

All: **Let the healing renew!**

One: Here in this sacred space with the strength of God’s grace,

All: **Let the vision take flight!**

One: On this glorious day, give us courage, we pray,

All: **that justice rolls down.**

Let justice roll down!

Based on Amos 5 and “Roll Down Justice” by Mark Miller.

There's a voice, strong and clear, ringing out far and near,
"Let justice roll down, let justice roll down!"
Like the rush of a stream, comes a powerful dream,
let justice roll down, justice rolls down!

Let the earth be restored, ev'ry soul be reformed;
let the healing renew, creation reborn.
Here in this sacred space with the strength of God's grace,
let justice roll down, justice rolls down!

Refrain: Roll down! Roll down, justice!
Roll, like an everflowing stream.
Roll down! Roll down, justice!
Roll like an everflowing stream, flowing stream, roll down!

On this glorious day, give us courage we pray,
that justice rolls down, let justice roll down!
Let the vision take flight and God will delight
as waters flow down, justice abounds! *Refrain*

CALL TO CONFESSION

Lector

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All

One: O God, we as broken creatures have fallen short of all that has been required of us.

All: **Whereas you looked at your beloved creation and said, "It is good," we have at times looked at that same creation and rejected its beauty and inherent goodness.**

One: We have looked at the color of one another's skin and assigned beauty and worth based on its hue.

All: **We have felt the texture of one another's hair and determined what is good and what is damaged.**

One: We have ignored the cries of others as they seek justice from the oppressor and we told them to wait a little while longer. But today is a new day full of opportunities to try again and prayerfully move toward reconciliation and mutual respect.

All: **For "we are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly."**

One: Have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may be your beloved community.

All: **Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

Rev. Anna

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

The people are invited to share a sign of God's peace with one another, such as a greeting, handshake, etc.

One: The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

All: **And also with you.**

* Signifies the people are invited to rise in body or Spirit.

– WORD –

MISSION COLLECTION

“Jesus Loves Me”

All children are invited to come forward to take a blue basket to collect offerings for our Little Pantry and to Bethany Food Pantry. Spare bills and coins will be given to our Social Justice Team projects.

**Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to him belong. They are weak, but he is strong.
Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me; the Bible tells me so.**

TIME FOR CHILDREN Emily Jamison Guerrero, Director of Children’s Ministries

After our Mission Collection, all children and the young at heart are invited to sit on the floor in front of the chancel steps for the Time for Children.

CHILDREN’S SENDING SONG

“Sing Amen”

Children are invited to the Children’s Wing for the remainder of worship, or may return to sit with their families.

**Sing Amen, Amen!
Go in peace! Shalom!
May the love of Christ be in your heart today.
Sing Amen, Amen!
Go in peace! Shalom!
Be the love of God as you go on your way.**

Music and lyrics by Emily Jamison Guerrero. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 15:10-20 (NRSV)

Walt Case, *Lector*

Then he called the crowd to him and said to them, "Listen and understand: it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles." Then the disciples approached and said to him, "Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?" He answered, "Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit." But Peter said to him, "Explain this parable to us." Then he said, "Are you also still without understanding? Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach, and goes out into the sewer? But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, fornication, theft, false witness, slander. These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile."

One: This is the Word of God for all the people of God.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

"A Prayer for the Church"

by Martin Luther King, Jr.

Video by Work of the People

REFLECTION

"The Cult of Innocence"

Rev. Anna

* Signifies the people are invited to rise in body or Spirit.

– PRAYERS –

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Pastor Meghan

*The pastor and people may share their joys and concerns out loud with the congregation.
The pastor will end each petition with:*

One: O God,

All: **hear our prayer.**

THE PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR *In whichever words are closest to your heart...*

Our Creator who is in Heaven, holy is your name. Your Kin-dom come, your will be done on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us today our daily bread, and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For yours is the Kin-dom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

– HOLY COMMUNION –

INVITATION TO GIVING

We invite you to partner with us in mission by going to www.uccaustin.org/give.

You may also scan the QR codes in the pew to be connected to giving websites.

*Physical offerings may be mailed or dropped in the wooden box at the rear of the sanctuary,
or in the brass offering plates on either side of the communion table.*

*It is through your generosity that this exceptional community
of friendship, faith and service is possible.*

INVITATION TO RECEIVING

“We Shall Overcome”

**We shall overcome, we shall overcome,
We shall overcome some day!
Deep in my heart
I do believe
we shall overcome some day!**

Tune & Text: African American Traditional. Public Domain

Welcome

Rev. Anna

Sanctus

“We Shall Overcome”

**We'll go hand in hand, we'll go hand in hand,
we'll go hand in hand some day!
Deep in my heart
I do believe
we'll go hand in hand some day!**

Tune & Text: African American Traditional. Public Domain

Great Thanksgiving

Table Blessing

Lisa Deane, *deacon*

Sanctus

“We Shall Overcome”

**We shall live in peace, we shall live in peace,
We shall live in peace some day!
Deep in my heart
I do believe
we shall live in peace some day!**

Tune & Text: African American Traditional. Public Domain

* Signifies the people are invited to rise in body or Spirit.

TIME OF COMMUNION & PRAYER STATIONS

*Christ invites everyone to his table, no matter who they are or where they are on life's journey,
and so we invite everyone to share communion with us by processing down the center aisle,
beginning with the front pews.*

*You may open your palms to signify you would like a piece of the common loaf,
and you may dip it in the chalice of wine.*

*Alternatively, there are sealed communion kits on either end of the table with juice.
The kits in the center are also gluten free.*

Please return by the side aisles, leaving any offerings in the brass plates.

*You may also use this time to light a candle of prayer at the back,
or to request a blessing or prayer from the minister near the sanctuary doors.*

Special Music

"Lead Us from Death to Life"

Haugen/Kumar

*DOXOLOGY

OLD ONE HUNDREDTH

Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

Praise God, all creatures here below!

Praise God above, ye heav'nly host;

Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost! Amen.

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

– WE GO OUT TO SERVE –

*SENDING HYMN

“Let Justice Flow Like Streams”

NCH #588

Let justice flow like streams of sparkling water, pure,
Enabling growth, refreshing life, abundant, cleansing, sure.

Let righteousness roll on as others’ cares we heed,
An everflowing stream of faith translated into deed.

So may God’s plumb line, straight, define our measure true,
And justice, right, and peace pervade this world our whole life through.

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*BLESSING

“To Proclaim Release” by Jan Richardson

Rev. Anna

*SENDING

One: Now our worship has ended.

All: Let our service begin.

SENDING MUSIC

Nicholas

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PLANNING LENT & EASTER: Your ideas and opinions are welcome at the Worship Team Brainstorm today after worship. Our theme for Lent this year is "Seeking: Honest Questions for Deeper Faith," and we'd love your input about music, decorations, liturgy, and more. Please join Rev. Anna in the Sanctuary following the service. *(Feel free to grab coffee and cookies first!)*

DIRECTORY REVIEW: The church office would like to hand out fresh copies of the directory which include the addresses, phone numbers, and email addresses of church members, active participants, and friends. But first, we want to be certain that we have the most up-to-date information! Please stop by the tables in the Fellowship Hall THIS MORNING to check and/or correct your entry on the directory proofs. Be sure to note whether a phone number is home or cell, too! Information that you wish to remain off the directory may be crossed out. Printed copies will go out in late January.

YOUTH GROUP BACK TONIGHT: All youth in grades 6-12 are invited to join Pastor Meghan and an awesome group of volunteer adults each Sunday at 5:30pm. The evening starts with dinner and fellowship and then moves into faith formation. Meghan sends out a weekly email with details, so please reach out to meghan@uccaustin.org if you'd like to be added to that list. This will be another great semester of learning and laughs!

LEADERSHIP CELEBRATION: Next Sunday, January 22, we will honor our 2022 Council Leaders and commission the incoming 2023 Council Leaders. After worship, we will have a 2023 Full Council Orientation and Lunch. Thank you to all who made 2022 such an amazing year for serving out God's mission in our community, in Austin, and beyond!

SPRING SMALL GROUPS ARE COMING: Our small groups were such a success this fall that we'll be starting another round of small groups this spring. Next Sunday, January 22, you'll be able to start signing up for our spring small groups, which begin meeting Jan. 29 - Feb. 2.

GAME NIGHT: Adults of any age are welcome to come for game fun held on the 4th Friday of most months at 7:00pm. This is a casual evening with all sorts of games. Feel free to bring games and snacks to share. Please RSVP if you are able so enough tables and chairs can be set up ahead of time. RSVP to wcase@austin.rr.com or text 512-468-0950.