

Greetings members and friends of the First Congregational Church of Shelburne,

This Monday, January 18th, marks the 20th nation-wide celebration of the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day. This federal holiday was first proposed in 1979, 11 years after Dr. King was assassinated. It was finally passed by congress in 1983 and signed into law by President Reagan. It wasn't until the year 2000 that the last of the 50 states recognized this federal holiday with Dr. King's name attached to it. In 1994, congress passed the King Holiday and Service Act, designating the Martin Luther King Jr. Federal Holiday as a national day of service. What has followed is a surge in volunteerism including projects such as tutoring and mentoring children, painting schools and senior centers, delivering meals, building homes, and reflecting on Dr. King's life and teachings.

The worship resource and video for this week center on Dr. King's legacy and his passionate vision for our nation.

Wishing you God's peace,

Pastor Rob

Welcome to Sunday Worship

January 17, 2021

Good Morning to our members and friends at home,

Tomorrow is Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. day across most of our nation. It is a day to recall his relentless ministry of equality and passionate vision of what our nation is called to be. On this Sunday we will offer both perspectives in prayer and in word. We have moved back into the sanctuary for recording our Sunday worship videos. You may access the video for this service on our church web page, shelburnechurch.org.

Prayer Requests: We are accepting requests for prayer (healing, comfort, thanksgiving, and others). Please send your requests to the Pastor at pastor01089@gmail.com. Requests will then be sent out through our email list to the congregation for our common prayer life during the week. PLEASE remember that all prayer requests received become public knowledge. If you are uncertain if your request for another might be confidential, do not send it.

And now let us be in worship

Call to Worship (Responsive) Psalm 61

L Hear my cry, O God; listen to my prayer

P From the ends of the earth, I call to you when my heart is faint. You are my refuge and salvation. Let me find the shelter under your wings.

L So, I will sing praises to your name!

Morning Unison Prayer & the Lord's Prayer

Loving God, you have called us this day to be your hands and feet in this world. Grant us your guidance and your courage as we answer. Help us to become people of purpose, people of peace and people of power in Christ. May this day bring to us the gifts of your

Holy Spirit as we answer your call. We pray in the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray together saying...*Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.*

Prayers of the People

Dr. King was noted for saying, “To be a Christian without *prayer* is no more possible than to be alive without breathing.” Prayer was an essential part of his life, as it is an essential part of our life together. This morning’s prayer is attributed to Dr. King and speaks about peace.

Let us pray

Gracious God, who sent your Christ to be the Prince of Peace,
We fervently pray for peace in our time. This is a prayer that is often in our hearts and on our lips. If those here this day discover your peace, Lord. If they should devote their passion, and their resources, and if they should dedicate their lives to living the ways of peace, in their families, their workplace, their church and their community, then, O Lord, that would be enough.

If those in our community and in our region, should discover your peace, Lord, if they should put an end to the scourges of violence, hatred and prejudice and if they should dedicate their lives to living the ways of peace, then, O Lord, that would be enough.

If those in our nation should discover your peace, Lord. If our nation should learn to work together, hand in hand, for the welfare of all our people regardless of who they are, what color their skin or where they have come from, and if our nation should dedicate itself to living the ways of peace, then, O Lord, that would be enough.

If, O Lord, those in our world should discover your peace. If wars should finally cease, if swords became plowshares and spears pruning hooks, if every nation saw itself as a part of your great creation and if all the nations dedicated themselves to the welfare of all the people, so that all would be fed, all might receive medical care, all might read and write, and all might enjoy the goodness of your creation in the safety of your peace, then, O Lord, that would be enough.

But if, O Lord, I am able to discover your peace in my heart and if I should divest myself of all that demeans me, and contributes to the violence, hatred and prejudice in this your creation, and if I should dedicate myself to living the ways of peace, then, O Lord, that would be enough, and I would be truly grateful.

Grant, O Lord, that your peace may come now, to open our hearts to your presence, your healing, your voice, as we step into this time of silent prayer and meditation.....

Grant, O Lord, that your peace may stay with us to open our hearts to your presence, to your healing, and to your voice, In Christ's name, Amen

Scripture Reading: John 1:43-51

Following the Gospel of John's opening introduction proclaiming the Word of God made flesh in Jesus Christ, the author begins a daily accounting of the beginning of Jesus' ministry. On day one, John the Baptist is confronted by the priests and Levites concerning who he is. He replies that he is the voice of one crying the wilderness, "prepare ye the way of the Lord." The next day, John baptizes Jesus in the Jordan. On day three, John sees Jesus and calls him the Lamb of God. Two of John's disciples then follow Jesus. On the next day, Jesus calls more disciples. Today's text, from the Gospel according to John, takes place on that fourth day.

The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth." Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" "Come and see," said Philip. When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, "here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!" Nathanael asked him, "Where did you get to know me?" "I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you." "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these. Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

Here ends the reading from
The Gospel according to John

After the reading, you may reflect on this passage and share your thoughts.
The sermon for this text may be seen in this week's video.

Benediction:

Lord, make us instruments of the Peace;
Where there is hatred, let us bring love,
Where there is injury, pardon,

Where there is doubt, faith;
Where there is despair, hope;
Where there is darkness, your light,
And where there is sadness, Joy,
Amen.