Use me, God. Show me how to take who I am, who I want to be, and what I can do, and use it for a purpose greater than myself.

Martin Luther King, Jr.

**The Second Sunday after the Epiphany**
Sunday January 17, 2021
9.30 am
During this time, your continued stewardship and giving are vital in continuing our mission and ministry to share God’s love in the world! You may offer your offering virtually at:  
  e-giving.stgeorges-maplewood.org

Or, you may mail a check to our church office at  
550 Ridgewood Rd. Maplewood, NJ 07040.

**OPENING HYMN:** “I Have Decided to Follow Jesus”  
LEVAS II, # 136
THE WORD OF GOD

OPENING ACCLAMATION
The people standing, the Celebrant says

Celebrant  Blessed be the one, holy, and living God
People    Glory to God for ever and ever. Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE

He Came Down

He came down that we may have *love; He
came down that we may have love; He
came down that we may have love, Hal- le - lu - jah for ev - er - more.

*CSubstitute* peace, joy, hope, life, etc.

Text: Cameroon traditional
Tune: Cameroon traditional; transcribed and arr. by John L. Bell, b.1949, © 1990, Iona Community, GIA Publications, Inc., agent

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant  The Lord be with you.
People    And also with you.
Celebrant  Let us pray.
Almighty God, by the hand of Moses your servant you led your people out of slavery, and made them free at last: Grant that your Church, following the example of your
prophet Martin Luther King, may resist oppression in the name of your love, and may secure for all your children the blessed liberty of the Gospel of Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

THE FIRST READING

EPHESIANS 6:10-20

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. Put on the whole armour of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armour of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

Reader

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.

People

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 77:11-20

The Psalm is read responsively by half-verse.

I will remember the works of God *

and call to mind your wonders of old time.

I will meditate on all your acts *

and ponder your mighty deeds.

Your way, O God, is holy; *

who is so great a god as our God?

You are the One who works wonders *

and have declared your power among the peoples.
By your strength you have redeemed your people, *
   the children of Jacob and Joseph.

   The waters saw you, O God;
the waters saw you and trembled; *
   the very depths were shaken.

   The clouds poured out water;
the skies thundered; *
   your arrows flashed to and fro;

   The sound of your thunder was in the whirlwind;
your lightnings lit up the world; *
   the earth trembled and shook.

   Your way was in the sea,
and your paths in the great waters, *
   yet your footsteps were not seen.

You led your people like a flock *
   by the hand of Moses and Aaron.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Deacon   The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke
People    Glory to you, Lord Christ.

‘But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. Do to others as you would have them do to you.

‘If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

After the reading of the Gospel, the Gospeler says
The Gospel of the Lord.
People    Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE SERMON

REV. GRANT MANSFIELD
THE NICENE CREED

Please stand.

We believe in one God,
   the Father, the Almighty,
   maker of heaven and earth,
   of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
   the only Son of God,
   eternally begotten of the Father,
   God from God, Light from Light,
   true God from true God,
   begotten, not made,
   of one Being with the Father;
   through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
   he came down from heaven,
   was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
   and became truly human.
    For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
    he suffered death and was buried.
    On the third day he rose again
    in accordance with the Scriptures;
    he ascended into heaven
    and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
    He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
    and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
    who proceeds from the Father,
    who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
    who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
    and the life of the world to come. Amen.

5 FINGER PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

We, the members of the Church, are Christ’s hands in the world. Let us pray with our hands to God for the world around us.

Pause for silence as we begin to pray
Hold your thumb-- God, thank you for my friends and family. Protect them and give them joy. Heal those who are sick or having a hard time. For our parish, our prayers this week are especially Tracy, Sasha and Eliza Almazan, Lydia Anderson, Tomas and Alison Arias, and John and Jennie Ayer.

Let us name those whom we pray for.

*Pause for our prayers to be offered*

Hold your pointer finger-- God, thank you for my leaders and teachers who point the way for me to go. Give them rest and clear minds.

Let us name those whom we pray for.

*Pause for our prayers to be offered*

Hold your middle Finger-- God, thank you for the people with power. Give the police, community organizers, government and military wisdom, strength, and open hearts.

Let us name those whom we pray for.

*Pause for our prayers to be offered*

Hold your ring finger-- God, strengthen those who feel weak, those who are struggling or in need. Help me to see them and offer help when I am able.

Let us name those whom we pray for.

*Pause for our prayers to be offered*

Hold your pinky finger-- God, help me learn your ways, surround me with good friends, and strengthen me in mind, body, and spirit.

Let us name the things we pray for.

*Pause for our prayers to be offered*

*The Celebrant prays*

Loving God, we thank you for making us Christ’s hands in the world. Hear our prayers and grant us the wisdom, strength, hope, and love needed to follow where you lead us to serve. In the name of Jesus Christ we pray: **Amen.**
CONFESSION OF SIN

Leader  For the times we have hurt others.
People  Forgive us God.

Leader  For the times we have acted selfishly.
People  Forgive us God.

Leader  For the times we have been slow to forgive others.
People  Forgive us God.

Leader  For the times we have not remembered your love for us.
People  Forgive us God.

Leader  Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.
People  Amen

THE PEACE
All stand.
Celebrant  The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People  And also with you.

Then the Ministers and the People may greet one another in the name of the Lord. During this time, please share the peace by either bowing towards an individual or waving. Please refrain from physical touch.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Please remain standing as the Celebrant says
Celebrant  The Lord be with you.
People  And also with you.
Celebrant  Lift up your hearts.
People  We lift them to the Lord.
Celebrant  Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People  It is right to give our thanks and praise

Eucharistic Prayer 1
Enriching Our Worship
It is truly right, and good and joyful, to give you thanks, all-holy God, source of life and fountain of mercy. Because in the mystery of the Word made flesh, you have caused a new light to shine in our hearts, to give the knowledge of your glory in the face of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Therefore, joining with Angels and Archangels and with the faithful of every generation, we lift our voices with all creation as we say:

Celebrant and People

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

The Celebrant continues

Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of the universe and giver of life. You formed us in your own image and called us to dwell in your infinite love. You gave the world into our care that we might be your faithful stewards and show forth your bountiful grace. But we failed to honor your image in one another and in ourselves; we would not see your goodness in the world around us; and so we violated your creation, abused one another, and rejected your love. Yet you never ceased to care for us, and prepared the way of salvation for all people.

Through Abraham and Sarah you called us into covenant with you. You delivered us from slavery, sustained us in the wilderness, and raised up prophets to renew your promise of salvation. Then, in the fullness of time, you sent your eternal Word, made mortal flesh in Jesus. Born into the human family, and dwelling among us, he revealed your glory. Giving himself freely to death on the cross, he triumphed over evil, opening the way of freedom and life.

On the night before he died for us, Our Savior Jesus Christ took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his friends, and said: “Take, eat: This is my Body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said: “Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:
Celebrant and People
Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues
Remembering his death and resurrection, we now present to you from your creation this bread and this wine. By your Holy Spirit may they be for us the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ. Grant that we who share these gifts may be filled with the Holy Spirit and live as Christ’s Body in the world. Bring us into the everlasting heritage of your daughters and sons, that with all your saints, past, present, and yet to come, we may praise your Name for ever. Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. Amen.

THE LORD’S PRAYER
And now, as our Savior has taught us, we are bold to say
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 trespasses,
    as we forgive those
    who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
    but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
    and the power, and the glory,
    for ever and ever. Amen.

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,
Our Father in heaven,
    hallowed be your Name,
    your kingdom come,
    your will be done,
    on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
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 the kingdom, the power,
    and the glory are yours,
    now and for ever. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD
The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.
A period of silence is kept.

Celebrant: We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ;
People: We who are many are one body, for we all share in the one bread.
THE INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The Celebrant says  The Gifts of God for the People of God.

COMMUNION

All are welcome to receive Holy Communion at Christ’s Table. Traditionally Holy Communion is distributed in bread and wine. During this time of COVID-19, Holy Communion will be distributed in one kind only— in bread. Know that the Church affirms that receiving in one kind is a fully valid and full expression of participating in the Sacrament of Holy Communion. To receive the bread, please follow the instructions offered by the priest and the direction of the usher.

For those who do not wish to physically receive the bread, or are unable to because you are joining us virtually, we invite you to receive Holy Communion spiritually, through praying the prayer below. Know that the Church affirms that spiritually receiving the Sacrament of Holy Communion is a fully valid and full expression of participating in this Sacrament.

A PRAYER OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

In union, blessed Jesus, with the faithful gathered at every altar of your Church where your blessed Body and Blood are offered this day, I long to offer you praise and thanksgiving, for creation and all the blessings of this life, for the redemption won for us by your life, death, and resurrection, for the means of grace and the hope of glory.

I believe that you are truly present in the Holy Sacrament, and, since I cannot at this time receive communion, I pray you to come into my heart. I unite myself with you and embrace you with all my heart, my soul, and my mind. Let nothing separate me from you; let me serve you in this life until, by your grace, I come to your glorious kingdom and unending peace. Amen.

Come Lord Jesus, and dwell in my heart in the fullness of your strength; be my wisdom and guide me in right pathways; conform my life and actions to the image of your holiness; and, in the power of your gracious might, rule over every hostile power that threatens or disturbs the growth of your kingdom, who with the Father and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.

COMMUNION HYMN “Now Thank We All Our God”

1 Now thank we all our God, with heart, and hands, and voices.
2 O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us!
3 All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given,
POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

Please stand or kneel as we pray.

Celebrant  Let us pray.

Lord…
We thank you for your church, founded upon your Word,
that challenges us to do more than sing and pray,
but go out and work as though the very answer to our prayers depended on us
and not upon you.
Help us to realize that humanity was created to shine like the stars and live on
through all eternity.
Keep us, we pray, in perfect peace.
Help us to walk together,
pray together,
sing together,
and live together
until that day when all God’s children
- Black, White, Red, Brown and Yellow -
will rejoice in one common band of humanity
in the reign of our Lord and of our God, we pray.
Amen.

- The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.
THE BLESSING

The celebrant blesses the people.

May God give you grace never to sell yourself short, grace to risk something big for something good, and grace to remember that the world is too dangerous for anything but truth and too small for anything but love. Amen

THE DISMISSAL

The Deacon now dismisses the people

People Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

CLOSING HYMN: “Guide My Feet” WLP, #819

1. Guide my feet Lord, while I run this race.
2. Hold my hand Lord, while I run this race.
3. Stand by me Lord, while I run this race.

Guide my feet Lord, while I run this race. 'cause I don’t want to run this race in vain.

Hold my hand Lord, while I run this race. 'cause I don’t want to run this race in vain.

Stand by me Lord, while I run this race. 'cause I don’t want to run this race in vain.
Martin Luther King, Jr. was born on January 15, 1929, in Atlanta. As the son and grandson of Baptist preachers, he was steeped in the Black Church tradition. To this heritage he added a thorough academic preparation, earning the degrees of B.A., B.D., and Ph.D. in Systematic Theology from Boston University.

In 1954, King became pastor of a church in Montgomery, Alabama. There, Black indignation at inhumane treatment on segregated buses culminated in December, 1955, in the arrest of Rosa Parks for refusing to give up her seat to a white man. King was catapulted into national prominence as the leader of the Montgomery bus boycott. He became increasingly the articulate prophet, who could not only rally the Black masses, but could also move the consciences of Whites.

King founded the Southern Christian Leadership Conference to spearhead non-violent mass demonstrations against racism. Many confrontations followed, most notably in Birmingham and Selma, Alabama, and in Chicago. King’s campaigns were instrumental to the passage of the Civil Rights Acts of 1964, 1965 and 1968. King then turned his attention to economic empowerment of the poor and opposition to the Vietnam War, contending that racism, poverty and militarism were interrelated.

King lived in constant danger: his home was dynamited, he was almost fatally stabbed, and he was harassed by death threats. He was even jailed 30 times; but through it all he was sustained by his deep faith. In 1957, he received, late at night, a vicious telephone threat. Alone in his kitchen he wept and prayed. He relates that he heard the Lord speaking to him and saying, “Martin Luther, stand up for righteousness, stand up for justice,” and promising never to leave him alone—“No, never alone.” King refers to his vision as his “Mountaintop Experience.”

After preaching at Washington Cathedral on March 31, 1968, King went to Memphis in support of sanitation workers in their struggle for better wages. There, he proclaimed that he had been “to the mountain-top” and had seen “the Promised Land,” and that he knew that one day he and his people would be “free at last.” On the following day, April 4, he was cut down by an assassin’s bullet.
During this pandemic, we recognize that we all need additional support, in a variety of ways, to sustain and thrive in these trying times. If you are in need, we highly encourage you to reach out for help; you are not alone on this journey.

For pastoral concerns, please call Rev. Grant: 1-973-477-1907
For Medical related COVID-19 information, call: 1-800-962-1253
For NJ Mental Health support, call this hotline: 1-866-202-4357
For Suicide Prevention, call this hotline: 1-855-654-6735
For NJ Domestic Violence, call this hotline: 1-800-572-7233

Saint George’s Vestry
Mike Martins – Senior Warden
Dan Mitchell – Junior Warden
Jane Ungaro, Margo Hill, Meg Persichetti,
Marymae Henley, Aleeda Crawley, Brad Kalos
Mark Graham, Sharon McSorley, Tom Meyers-Normand

News and feature articles from around our diocese
http://www.dioceseofnewark.org/e-news

Saint George’s Episcopal Church

MINISTERS
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The Rev. Sun-Hwan Spriggs, Deacon
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