

Welcome to this service of worship. *As Jesus Christ welcomes each one of us, we hope you sense the friendly welcome of this congregation of God's people. We light the Peace Candle to stand as a beacon of hope, calling us and all the world from darkness to light, from violence to peace.*

[*]If you are comfortable doing so, it is appropriate to stand.
Bold type signifies congregational response.

WE GATHER IN JESUS' NAME

PRELUDE *There is a Balm in Gilead* arr. Hailstork

WELCOME

CHORAL INTROIT

CALL TO WORSHIP

Sisters and brothers, rejoice.

We live sustained by God's presence and love.

Thanks be to God.

As we mourn the wounds of God's children,

God weeps with us.

As we give thanks for brothers and sisters who have lived in faith,

God gives thanks with us.

As we struggle for justice,

God struggles with us.

As we strive for peace,

God strives with us.

As we work to build the beloved community,

God works with us.

As we offer our gifts to all,

God blesses us.

Sisters and brothers, rejoice.

Sustained by God's presence and love we worship

God.

* HYMN #417

Christ is Made the Sure Foundation

*PRAYER OF PRAISE

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give God thanks and praise. God of all races and nations, we praise you for all your faithful servants who have done justice, loved mercy, and walked humbly with their God. For apostles, martyrs, leaders, and saints, and for humble folk whose names were never in the news, but are recorded in your book of life,

We give you thanks, O God.

Especially this day we thank you for Martin Luther King Jr., for his courage and conviction, for his passion for peace, and for his tireless quest of a nation that keeps faith with its promises,

We give you thanks, O God.

For Coretta Scott King and the King family; for the memory of Martin Luther King Sr. and Mrs. King; for Medgar Evers, Rosa Parks, James Meredith, Malcolm X, and countless others who stood in the front lines and marched, integrated schools and restaurants, or sat in buses and refused to move,

We give you thanks, O God.

For nameless multitudes who suffered the tortures of slavery and the tyranny of oppression, who were beaten, raped, and lynched; and for the nameless multitudes today whose lives are stunted and cut short by economic and social structures of brutality.

We grieve and promise to work for justice, O God.

And for children, women, and men of every race who are denied education, health care, jobs, housing, and hope in our land,

We grieve and promise to work for justice, O God.

in the name of Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

*RESPONSE

Let Us with a Gladsome Mind
(Hymn #244, vs.1)

Let us with a gladsome mind praise the Lord who is so kind: For God's mercies shall endure, ever faithful, ever sure.

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

Keith Rhoden, Jr.

ANTHEM

Thou Art the Way

Roesch

Thou art the way: to Thee alone from sin and death we flee: and he who would the Father seek must seek Him, Lord by Thee. Thou art the way, the truth, the life: Grant us that way to know, that truth to keep, that life to win, whose joys eternal flow. Thou art the truth: Thy word alone true wisdom can impart; Thou only canst inform the mind and purify the heart. Thou art the life: the rending tomb proclaims Thy conquering arm, and those who put their trust in Thee nor death nor hell shall harm. Thou art the way, the truth, the life: grant us that way to know, that truth to keep, that life to win, whose joys eternal flow!

SCRIPTURE

Luke 6:27-38

Pew Bible NT p. 64-65

REFLECTIONS OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. Bob Evans

AFFIRMATIONS BASED ON DR. KING'S LIFE Holly Billings

A TRIBUTE TO CORETTA SCOTT KING Mildred McNeill

QUOTES FROM DR. KING Edwin Carty

* HYMN # 386 (vs. 1, 2, 3, 5)

O for a World

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

The Lord's Prayer is found on the top of page 16 of the Hymnal, traditional version using "debts" and "debtors"

OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Let Joyful Anthems Rise* Handel/Hopson

Let joyful anthems rise, O praise the Lord. His name we laud, O praise the Lord. His might is sure, His steadfast love endures forevermore; Unending praise we sing. Let joyful anthems rise, O praise the Lord. His might and love are sure.

*RESPONSE

Lord of All Good

(Tune: Toulon #375)

**Lord of all good, our gifts we bring to You;
use them Your holy purpose to fulfill;
tokens of love and pledges brought anew,
that our whole life is offered to Your will.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Gracious God, we come today with joy for our baptism, and gratitude for your love. As we offer these gifts, send your spirit upon us, that our hands and hearts may continue your work in the world. Bless us with strength, that we may be a blessing of peace in our troubled world. Amen.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

(Those who have announcements are asked to please move to the front pews at this time.)

*HYMN # 563

Lift Every Voice and Sing

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

*RESPONSE

for music see Hymn #322

**Spirit of the living God, Fall afresh on me;
Spirit of the living God, Fall afresh on me.
Melt me, mold me, Fill me, use me.
Spirit of the living God, Fall afresh on me.**

POSTLUDE *Trumpet Tune on "Free at Last"* arr. Janzer

SERVICE

Flowers: The flowers are given today by Shirley Garren in loving memory of Bill and Steve Garren.
Greeters: Tom & Mildred McNeill
Liturgist: Lois Maxwell, who also designed the service today.

Ushers: Michael Adzenyah, Joan Grant, R. Sherwood Marchant, Rusty Spears.



Members, friends, and visitors are invited to join us as our guests for coffee and fellowship in Hodge Hall immediately following worship. **Susan Labins** is our host today.

This is a welcoming Church, embracing sisters and brothers without regard to age, race, ethnic background, sexual orientation, family status, economic situation or theological viewpoint. We want our visitors to feel a part of the family. *"Following the risen Christ, and seeking to make the Church a true community of hospitality, the mission of More Light Presbyterians is to work for the full participation of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people of faith in the life, ministry and witness of the Presbyterian Church (USA)."*

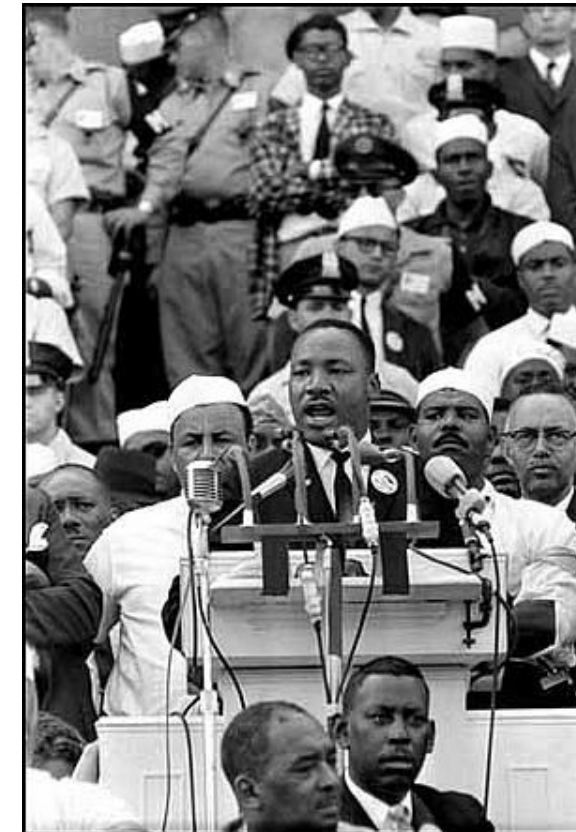
There is a variety of materials near the entrance to acquaint you with the Church. We encourage you to sign the guest book in the entry and to use the yellow card in the pews to register your attendance and enable us to add you to our newsletter mailing list. Please place yellow cards in the offering plates.

All of our services and activities are open to non-members.

Offering Envelopes are available in the pews for the convenience of those who may have forgotten their assigned envelope or for those who wish to use an envelope for a cash gift. If you wish your contribution to be used for a specific cause, please indicate that on the envelope.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Russell Feroe, Interim Pastor. Office Hours 8:30 am – 12:00 noon Tue., Wed., Thu. E-mail: rferoe@sbcglobal.net or call: 860-904-6467 anytime. Dianne Ney, Music Director; Ruth Van Anden, Office Mgr.; John Du Pont, Sexton. Office Hours: M – F 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM (Closed 12:00 – 1:00 PM). We are a member church of the Presbyterian Church USA), Synod of the Northeast, Presbytery of Southern New England.



And so even though we face the difficulties of today and tomorrow, I still have a dream... deeply rooted in the American dream.

I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal.

I have a dream that one day every valley shall be exalted, and every hill and mountain shall be made low, the rough places will be made plain, and the crooked places will be made straight; "and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all flesh shall see it together."

*Photo and text from
<http://www.americanrhetoric.com/speeches/mlkihadream.htm>*

First Presbyterian Church

136 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, CT
Rev. Russell Feroe, Interim Pastor

Worship 10:30 AM
Sunday, January 17, 2010