

THANKSGIVING

who forever sing to the glory of your name:
ly, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
aven and earth are full of your glory.
sanna in the highest. Blessed is the One
who comes in the name of the Lord.
sanna in the highest.

PRAYER

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.

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COMMUNION

Our God whom we know in Jesus Christ is a God of
mercy and love. When we are disillusioned with others
and with ourselves, God still accepts us as we are and
continually moves toward us with forgiveness and
comfort. We give thanks that we are freed by God's love
to live in the freshness of each new day and to reach out
to one another in a community of grace and joy! For these
great gifts of love and so many more, we give you praise
through Christ our Lord and Savior! Amen.

"Here I Am, Lord"

"Ezekiel Saw the Wheel" *African American spiritual*
arr. Thomas Gouwens

WORSHIP LEADERS

Keith C. Harris Associate Pastor
Bethany Taylor DePaul University Student
Thomas Gouwens Associate Organist
The Vespers Choir

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Fourth Presbyterian Church
Sunday, January 15, 2006
6:30 p.m.

vesper

PRELUDE "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot" *African American spiritual*

OPENING RESPONSES

Leader: As a shepherd seeks a lost sheep,
People: **so God seeks and saves the lost.**
Leader: Like a woman who searches for a lost coin,
People: **so God rejoices over one soul restored to him.**
Leader: As a father receives a wayward returning son,
People: **so God welcomes us, and lets the past be forgotten.**
All: **Therefore let us praise God in thanksgiving, for that is how we are received.**

***HYMN 563** "Lift Every Voice and Sing" *Turkey*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(unison) Author of Life, we humbly confess that we
fall short of your intentions for us and for
ourselves. We would touch the world
but often we withdraw in anxiety and self-doubt.
We would live with integrity and stand firm
but we are torn with uncertainties. We value
the lives of others with our love, but we
wondering if they will love us in return.
We go about our daily tasks with confidence
but we find ourselves struggling with self-doubt.
Forgive us, O God. Lord, We need your help
if we are to be what we could be and what
most importantly, what you want us to be.
Let our worship heal us, renew us, strengthen us,
that we may go out in joy and the peace
of Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen

DECLARATION OF PARDON

Leader: Friends, believe the good news.
People: **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

**Stand as you are able.*

THE CHURCH

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Psalm 23 (*responsively*) (page 500, O.T.)

Blessed Martin, Pastor, Prophet" *Carl Haywood*

READING

Genesis 37:5-11 (page 34, N.T.)

the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RECITATION

DREAM COME TRUE by Keith C. Harris

Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine!" *Tune: ASSURANCE*

MINISTRY OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

Ministers and brothers, as we worship God together, we pause to celebrate the ministry of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. A human being whose devotion to peace has seldom been equaled and whose courageous leadership changed the countenance of a nation.

King believed that love, freedom, justice, and equality should prevail throughout

the universe; and we look forward to such a time.

He had an impatience that made it difficult to wait, when you are harried by day and haunted by night by the fact that you are persons of color, living constantly at tip toe, plagued with inner fears and outer resentments; when you are forever fighting a degenerating sense of 'nobodiness'."

We have an obligation to denounce the evils

of enmity and bigotry; love and tolerance

are much more acceptable companions.

He had an imagination given by God that prompted him to believe that all Americans "will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character."

We have a responsibility to pursue justice and

equality for all persons in respect of ethnicity;

and to shun acts of violence, bitterness, and hatred.

He had a valiancy that enabled him to tolerate being called an extremist. "The question is not whether

we will be extremists, but what kind of extremists we will be. In that dramatic scene on Calvary three men were crucified for the same crime of extremism. Two were extremists for ill will toward the other, Jesus Christ, was an extremist

People: **We have resoluteness to follow the example of Christ that he has set for us. We shall speak boldly and convincingly. We shall make our presence known.**

Leader: He had an idea that there would be a reformation that the Church was not merely a thermometer but a thermostat that transformed the world. He recorded the ideas and principles of popular culture; it was a thermostat that transformed the world.

People: **We have an allegiance to this motion and we pledge that we will act courageously and in a manner consistent with our Christian faith.**

Leader: He had a dream that "we will be able to live together that day when all of God's children; black people and white people, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics will be able to live together in peace and brotherly love."

People: **We have a faith that assures us that God still reigns over the earth and that as a people of God, we shall overcome some day.**

RESPONSE "We Shall Overcome" (two times)
We shall overcome someday. Deep in my heart I do believe we shall overcome some day

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

"Ride on, King Jesus" *African*
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*DOXOLOGY

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION

Minister: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Minister: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Minister: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**