



Shine God's Light

As disciples of Christ, we share and rejoice
in the warmth of God's love and light by
teaching the holy word,
serving Christ's community, and
growing together in faith.



January 14, 2024
Second Sunday after Epiphany
Dismantle Structural Racism Sunday

The Service for the Lord's Day

Second Sunday after Epiphany/Dismantle Structural Racism Sunday

On this Sunday closest to the birthday of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., we focus on Dismantling Structural Racism. We believe, and the Presbyterian Church (USA) upholds, that this work is a component of our identity as a Matthew 25 congregation. If you hear something in worship this morning that you want to talk about, please join us in the library in Fellowship Hall following worship for Q and A and further discussion.

January 14, 2024

9:30 am

Prelude

Swing Low, Sweet Chariot
Lord, I Want to Be a Christian

Spiritual, arr. Rick Parks
Spiritual, arr. Robert Powell

Call to Worship

What does our faith demand?

Rev. Amy: Racism is a lie about our fellow human beings, for it says that some are less than others. It is also a lie about God, for it falsely claims that God favors parts of creation over the entirety of creation.

Karen: Because of our biblical understanding of who God is and what God intends for humanity, the PC(USA) must stand against, speak against and work against racism. Anti-racist effort is not optional for Christians. It is an essential aspect of Christian discipleship, without which we fail to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ.

All: Though we create hierarchies that do not recognize nor celebrate the beauty of the diversity of God's creation; though we embrace human boundaries that divide and separate us distorting God's intention for humanity, God gives us the gift of unity. Let us work to realize the fullness of this gift.

Rev. Amy: We will not passively accept unjust systems for the sake of a false peace. We will take on the hard work of dismantling, stone by stone, the systems of oppression that divide and subjugate our siblings.

Karen: We will build, living stone by living stone, societies marked by justice and love.

All: God calls us to reconciliation. Let us repair what we've broken. Let us worship God!

*Hymn

Come! Live in the Light!

No. 749

Prayer of Confession (in unison)

Gracious God, you know us better than we know ourselves. You know our sins even before we confess. Your knowledge is wonderful, but also challenging. We'd much rather avoid painful truths and deny our role in wrongdoing. Help us face our failings so we can move forward in truth. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

*Gloria Patri

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost, as it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

*Passing the Peace *(Please check first with those you approach)*

Welcome and Announcements

Children's Message

*Children's offering will be collected as they come forward for the message.
After the message, children and youth may depart for Sunday School or return to their pew.*

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Reading Genesis 2:4-7 (page 2)

Anthem *Give Me Jesus* Spiritual, arr. Molly Ijames

In the morning when I rise, give me Jesus. Give me Jesus. You can have all this world, give me Jesus. And when I am alone, give me Jesus. And when I come to die, give me Jesus.

Epistle Reading 1 Corinthians 13:4-8a, 13 (page 934)

Sermon *Make America Grateful Again* Bill Taylor

*Affirmation of Faith (in unison) *[from A Brief Statement of Faith PCUSA]*

We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father. In sovereign love, God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God's image, siblings of every race and people, to live as one community. But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator. Ignoring God's commandments, we violate the image of God in others and ourselves, accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature, and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care. We deserve God's condemnation; yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation. In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth. Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage. Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant. Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still.

*Hymn

We Are One in the Spirit

No. 300

Offering

We invite you to consider giving out of gratitude to God after worship today either by placing your offering in the wooden box hanging on the wall at each exit, scanning the QR code in your pew and/or giving online through the church website at www.flemingtonpres.org, or mailing a check to the church office at 10 East Main Street, Flemington, NJ 08822. We give thanks for your generosity, allowing our mission and ministry together to continue.

Prayer of Dedication

Holy God, these offerings are only a portion of all that you have given us. We gratefully present these gifts and entrust them to your work in this world. May our gifts share the good news of the gospel to those who are in need. May these gifts help unburden those with the heaviest of loads to bear. Amen.

*Doxology

No. 607

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow: praise Christ all people here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore; praise Triune God whom we adore. Amen.**

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

*Hymn

Lift Every Voice and Sing

No. 339

*Charge and Benediction

Response

Lord, Make Us More Holy

African American Spiritual

Lord, make us more holy, Lord make us more faithful, Lord, make us more loving, until we meet again. Holy, faithful, loving, until we meet again.

Postlude

In Christ There Is No East Or West

Spiritual, arr. Gilbert M. Martin

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