

Gaithersburg Presbyterian Church – January 17, 2021
Celebrating the Life and Witness of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
Join us on You Tube!

Opening Music

“Allegro espressivo” by Schuyt
Wade Meyers, organ

Greeting

Reflections on the Day

Frantz Wilson

Call to Worship [*responsive*]

Jesus says: ask and you will receive, seek and you will find,
Knock and the door will be opened.

We believe; help our unbelief.

Jesus says: Come to me all you who labor and are heavy laden.
And I will give you rest.

We believe; help our unbelief.

Jesus says: heal, the sick.

Feed the hungry.

Free the oppressed.

Watch and pray.

We believe; help our unbelief.

Let us worship God in Spirit and in truth.

Opening Prayer

Call to Confession

Our God is merciful and compassionate,
slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love.

God is close to all who call out,
listening to their cries for help,
and offering them salvation.

Let us bring our confession to God.

Prayer of Confession [*together*]

**Mighty God, too often we do not honor
the faith of our foreparents.**

We stray from the righteous path.

We are too often drunk on the wine of the world,

**and we do not live the gospel of service and peace.
We live in division and sin.
Forgive us, O God.
Call us back to our heritage; back to you.**

[Silence for Personal Prayer]

Assurance of Pardon *[responsive]*

Christ is our peace
and has torn down every barrier between us and heaven;
between us and all humanity.

**He has broken down these barriers that separate,
and has built us up into one body, in God, by the Spirit.
Let us live as people reconciled. Thanks be to God.**

We Listen to God's Word

Children's Message

Carolyn Hayes

Scripture

Micah 6:6–8

⁶With what shall I come before the Lord,
and bow myself before God on high?
Shall I come before him with burnt-offerings,
with calves a year old?
⁷ Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams,
with tens of thousands of rivers of oil?
Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?
⁸ He has told you, O mortal, what is good;
and what does the Lord require of you
but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God?

James 2:1–10; 14–17

¹My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? ²For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, ³and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, 'Have a seat here, please', while to the one who is poor you say, 'Stand there', or, 'Sit at my feet', ⁴have you not made

We Depart for Service

Announcements and Passing the Peace

Greeting: "The peace of Christ be with you."

Response: "And also with you."

Commission & Benediction

Closing Music

"Lift Every Voice and Sing"

Glory to God #339

Participating in the service:

Rev. Dr Roy Howard, Guest Preacher

Ms. Schola Muluh, Worship Leader

Mr. Frantz Wilson

Mr. Wade Meyers, Director of Music and Worship Arts

Ms. Carolyn Hayes, Director of Children and Young Families, Children's Message

Rev. Mary Austin, Pastor

The Call to Worship is adapted from the worship resources of the Iona Community.
The Prayer of Confession and the Assurance of Pardon are from the writing of Dr. Valerie
Bridgeman Davis, adapted from *The Africana Worship Book*.

About our guest preacher:

The Rev. Dr. Roy Howard recently retired as the pastor of St. Mark Presbyterian Church. He is a trained clergy coach, and serves as the Book Editor for the *Presbyterian Outlook*. Roy has an MSW and worked for 10 years as a clinical social worker prior to entering the pastorate. He has a MDiv from Candler School of Theology and a Doctor of Ministry from Wesley Theological Seminary. He and his wife, Claudia Howard, have two adult daughters, one of whom was married on New Year's Day.