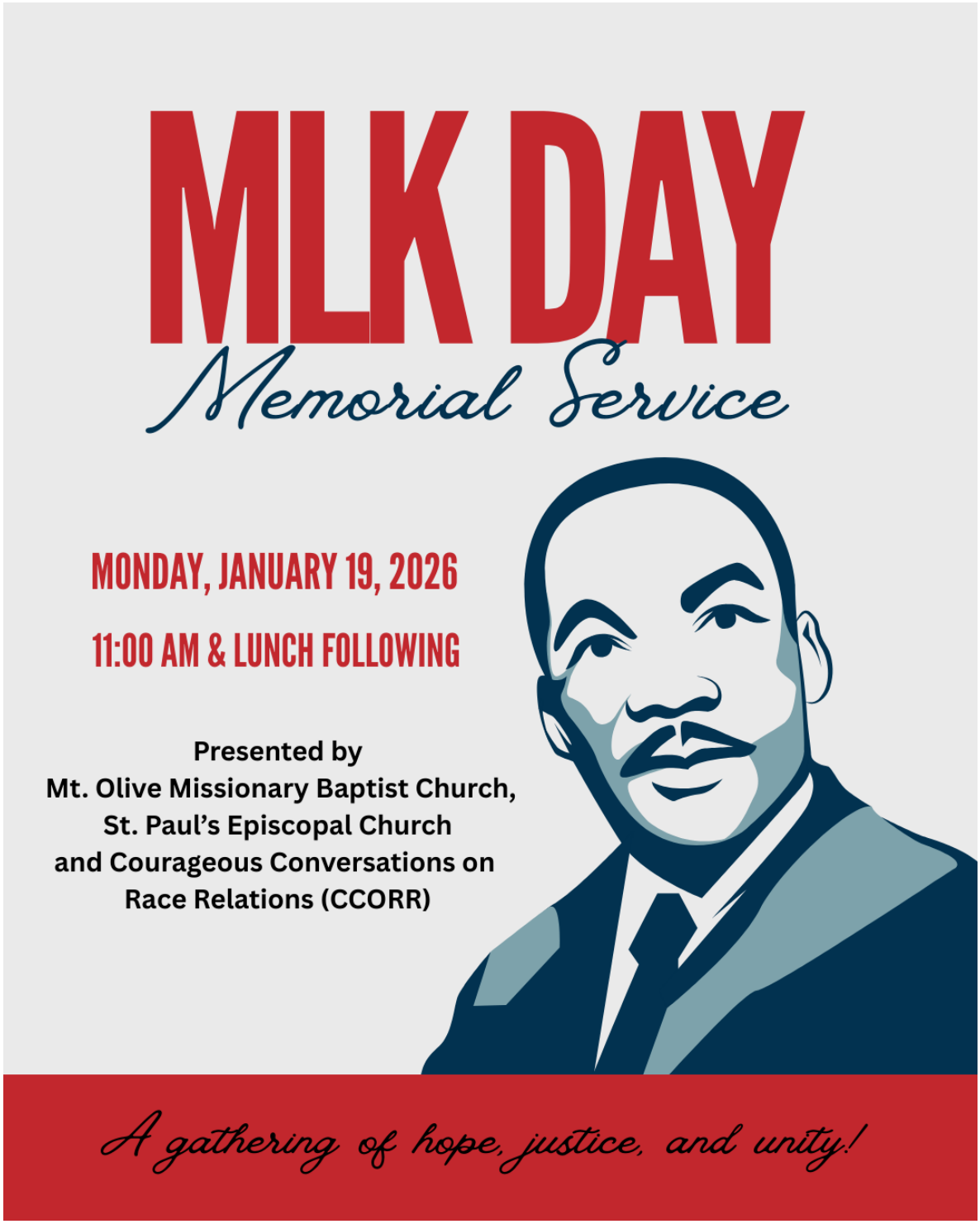
COURAGEOUS CONVERSATIONS ON RACE RELATIONS



WELCOME TO ST. PAUL'S

Our mission:

St. Paul's is an exceptionally welcoming Episcopal community in downtown Canton, grounded in faith, and called by God's Love to minister to the world.

The Mission of Courageous Conversations on Race Relations (CCORR) is to be a diverse community of individuals creating a beloved community through courageous, open dialogue, confronting racism and the ways it causes division, by educating and empowering participants into anti-racist actions.

CCORR meets at St.Paul's Church on the 3rd Tuesday of each month. Dinner begins at 6 p.m. and the conversations follow. All are welcome!

CCORR SPONSORING CHURCHES

Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church
1403 13th Street SE, Canton, Ohio 44707
Website: www.mobcanton.org
330.453.8197
The Rev. Eric G. Howard, Pastor

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
425 Cleveland Ave SW, Canton OH 44702
Website: www.stpaulscanton.org
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/stpaulscanton
e-mail: stpaulsoffice@att.net
YouTube: StPaulsCanton
(330) 455-0286
M. L. Schultze, Senior Warden

Welcome and Announcements – Molly Weisel

A Prayer of Invocation based on Dr. King's "Letter from Birmingham Jail"
- The Rev. Hector McDaniel, President of Stark County NAACP

From a jail cell in Birmingham in 1963, The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. wrote that "whatever affects one directly affects all indirectly" and that we all must repent not merely for the hateful words and actions of some, but for our own silence.

The preacher wrote that human progress never rolls in on wheels of inevitability; but comes through the tireless efforts of those of us willing to be co-workers with God, and that without this hard work, time itself becomes an ally of the forces of stagnation and hate.

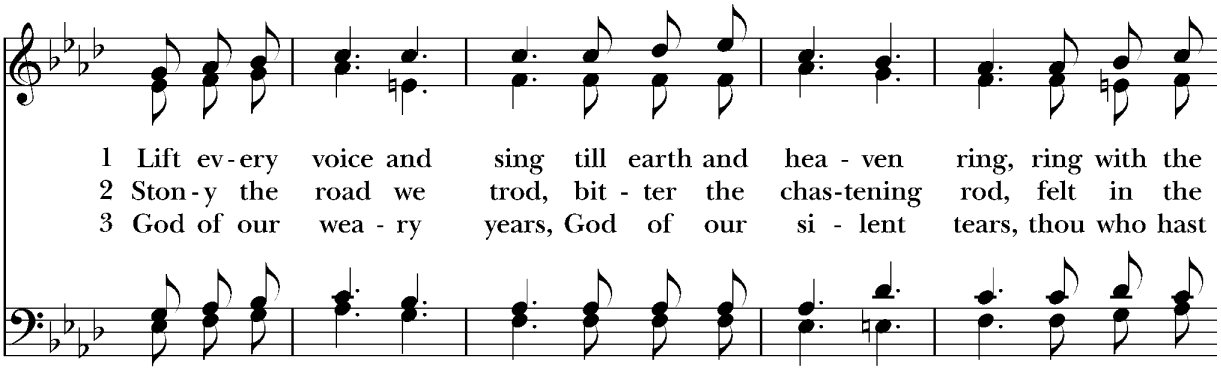
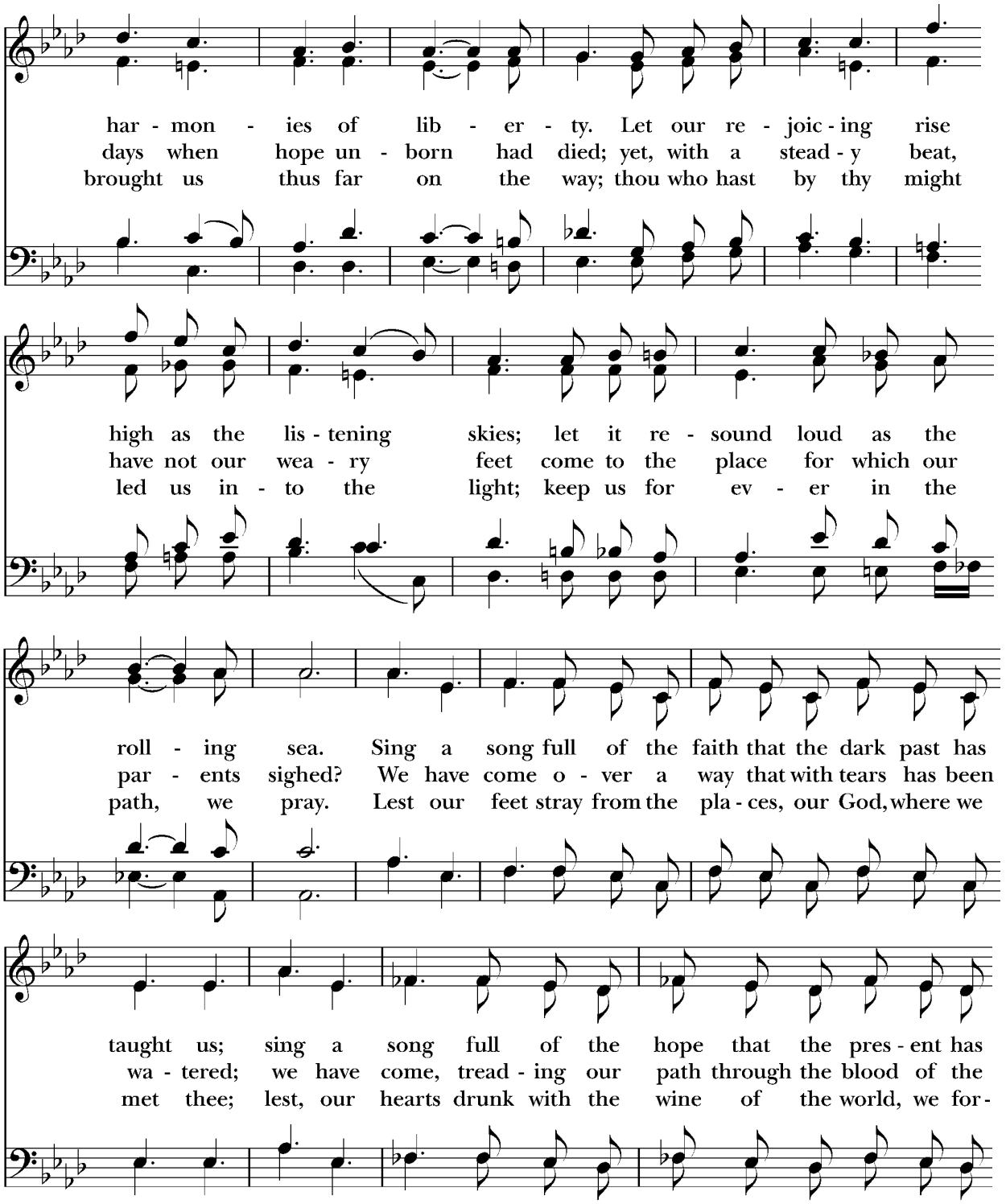
Lord God, this morning we gather to dedicate ourselves to walking with those who find themselves in the abyss of despair. We will support each other, and our brothers and sisters and neighbors, who have found that the trials of this world and the sorrows created by the choices of others can no longer be endured, alone.

Beloved Creator, help us rekindle the light of faith and hope and love in all those who join with us today, and all whom we meet and minister to today and in the days and weeks ahead. Help us to remember that in helping them walk, they are helping us run. By helping us run, they themselves are becoming agents of change and hope– as we are all called to be.

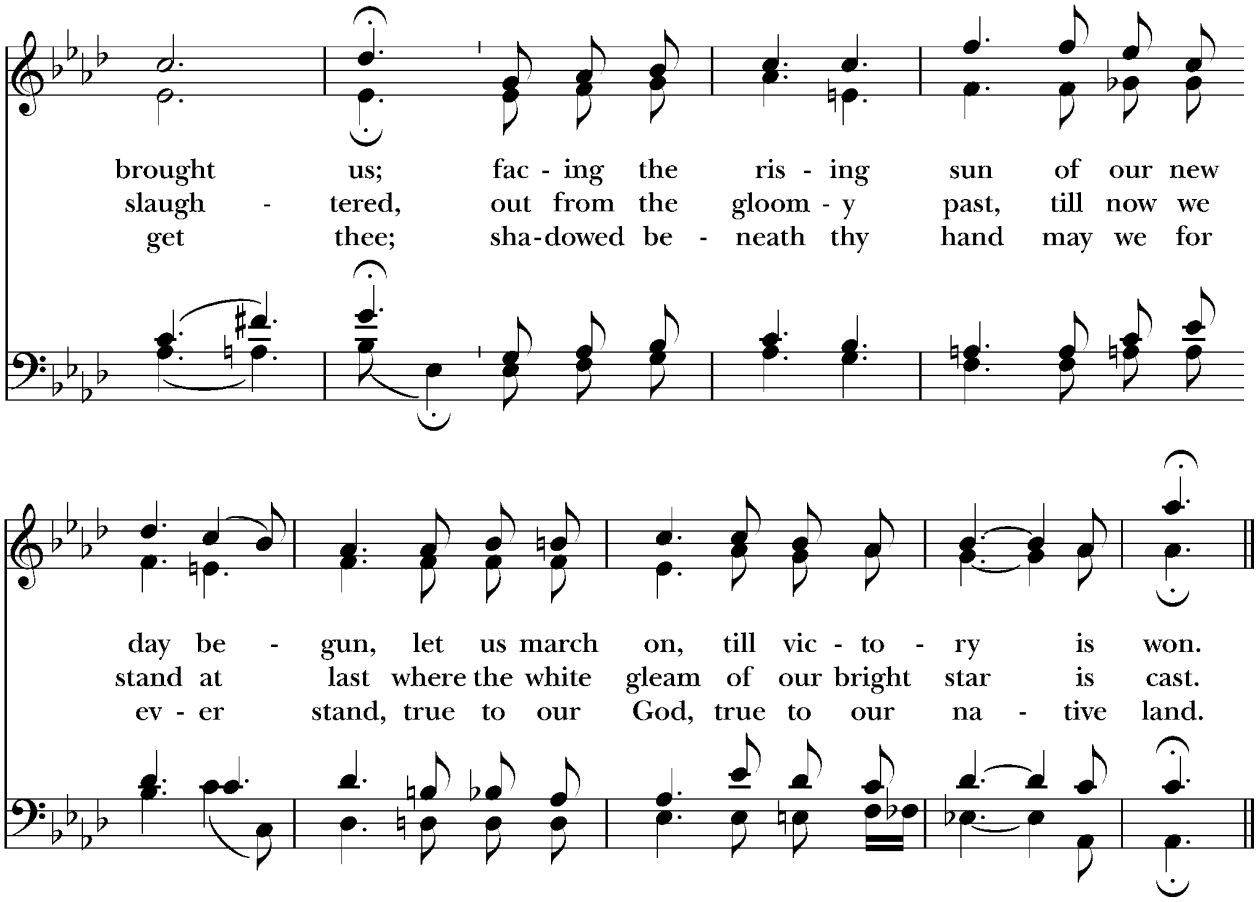
God, we honor your presence here today and rejoice in the many ways you walk with us, and are a constant companion in our journey through life. We ask for your grace, inspiration, and strength as we seek to do the same for our fellow human beings, and so enable them to see you working through us. **Amen.**

SILENT REFLECTION

Opening Hymn: "Lift Every Voice and Sing"



har - mon - ies of lib - er - ty. Let our re - joic - ing rise
days when hope un - born had died; yet, with a stead - y beat,
brought us thus far on the way; thou who hast by thy might
high as the lis - tening skies; let it re - sound loud as the
have not our wea - ry feet come to the place for which our
led us in - to the light; keep us for ev - er in the
roll - ing sea. Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has
par - ents sighed? We have come o - ver a way that with tears has been
path, we pray. Lest our feet stray from the pla - ces, our God, where we
taught us; sing a song full of the hope that the pres - ent has
wa - tered; we have come, tread - ing our path through the blood of the
met thee; lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we for -



Officiant: O Lord, Open thou our lips.
People: **And our mouths shall proclaim thy praise.**
All: **Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen. Alleluia.**

Psalm 77:11-20 *(said responsively)*

I will remember the works of the Lord, *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 God 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 Lessons

Amos 5:21-24 -- *Rabbi David Komerofsky, Temple Israel*

21"I hate, I despise your feasts, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.
22 Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them; and the peace offerings of your fattened animals, I will not look upon them.
23 Take away from me the noise of your songs; to the melody of your harps I will not listen.
24 But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

The Word of the Lord
People: Thanks be to God.

Officiant: Grant, O God, that your holy and life-giving Spirit may so move every human heart and especially the hearts of the people of this land, that barriers which divide us may crumble, suspicions disappear, and hatreds cease; that our divisions being healed, we may live in justice and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Exodus 3:7-12 -- *Edina Carpenter, Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church*

7Then the LORD said, "I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, 8and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. 9The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. 10So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt." 11But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" 12He said, "I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain."

The Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

Officiant: O God, you have bound us together in a common life. Help us, in the midst of our struggles for justice and truth, to confront one another without hatred or bitterness, and to work together with mutual forbearance and respect; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Ephesians 6:10-20 -- *LaDonna Massey, Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church*

10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. 11 Put on the whole
armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12 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. 13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that
you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand
firm. 14 Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the
breastplate of righteousness. 15 As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you
ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. 16 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. 17 Take the helmet
of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.
18 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. 19 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, 20 for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I
must speak.

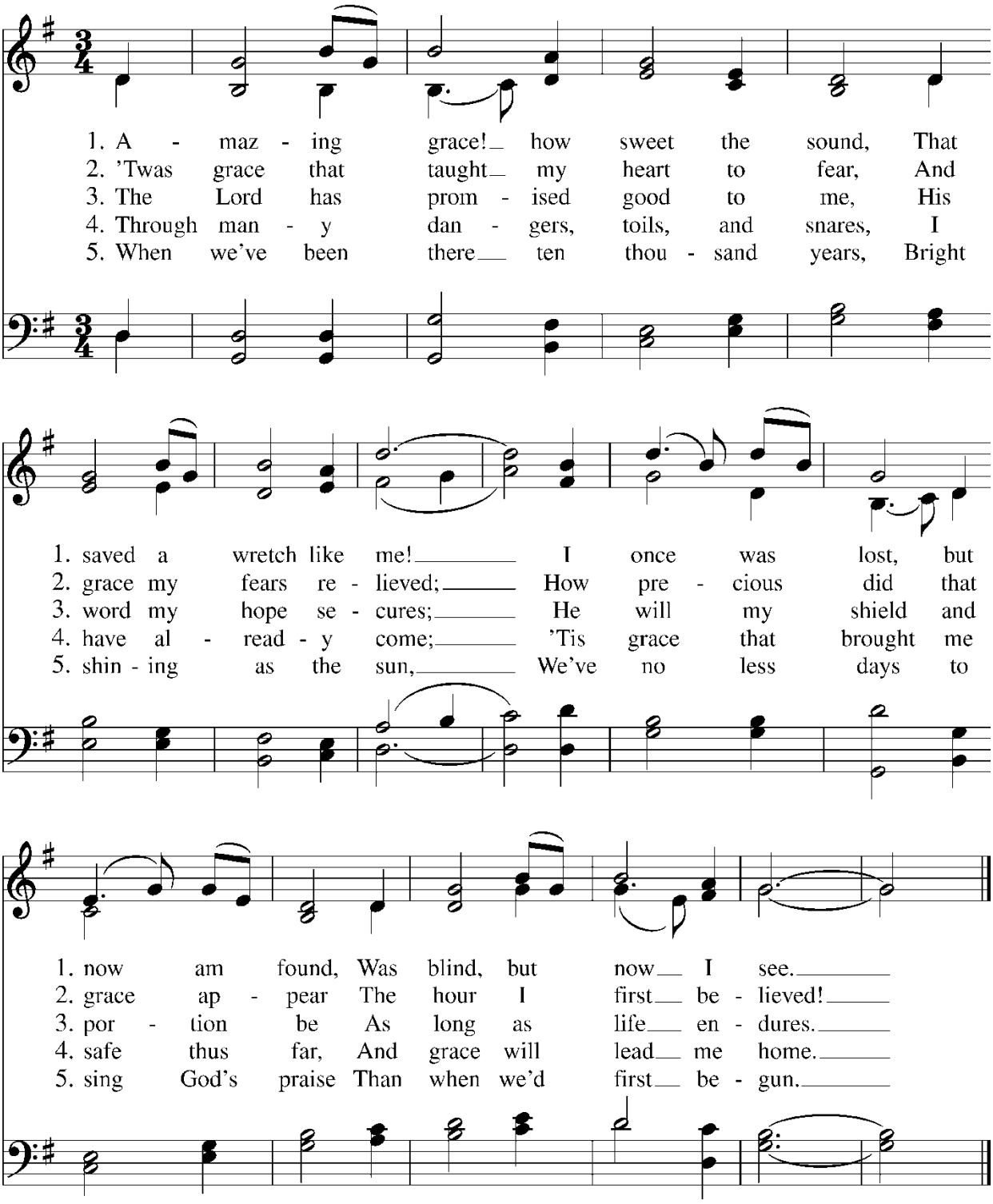
The Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

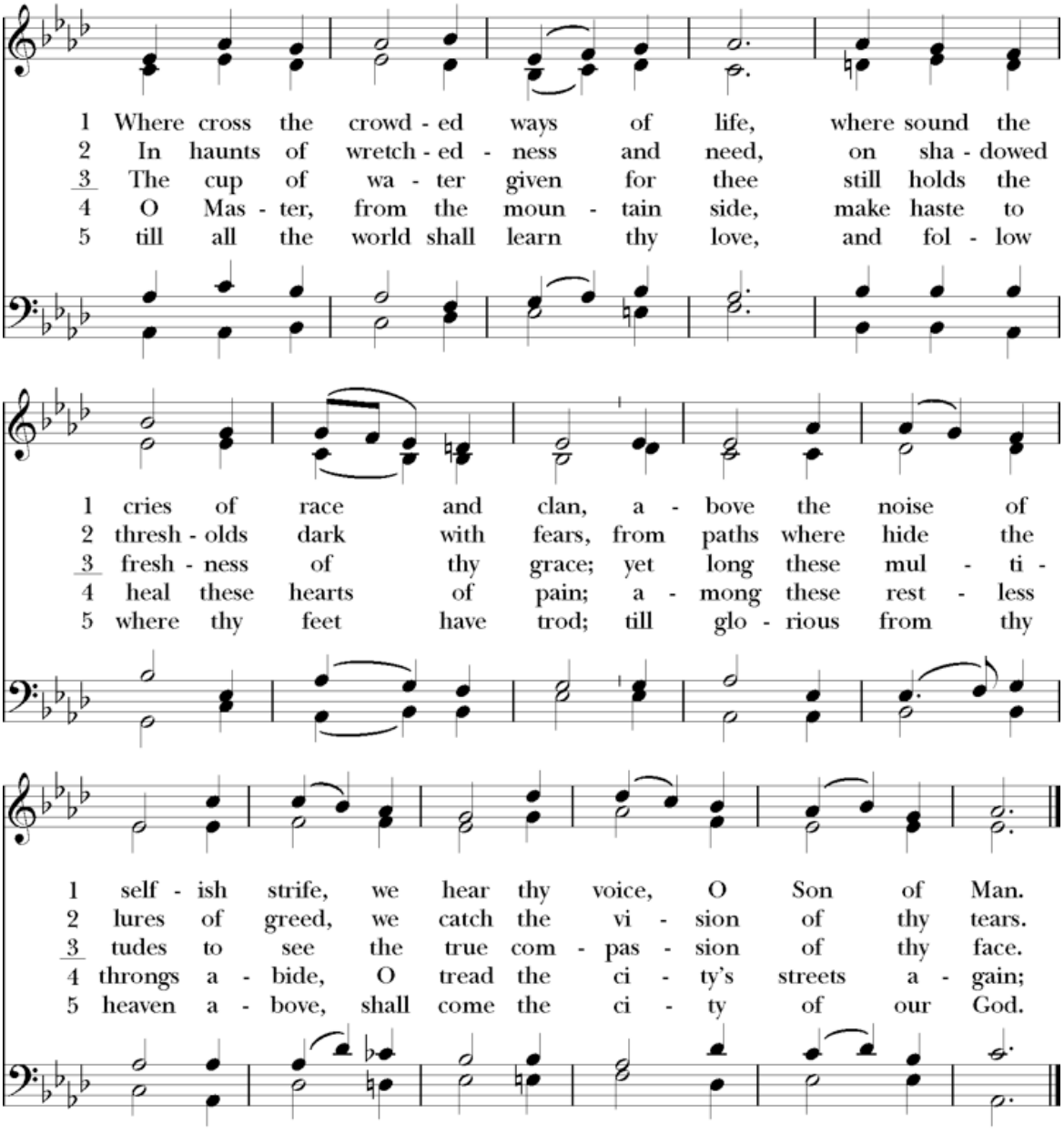
Hymn: "Amazing Grace" verses 1&2 -- *The Rev. Eric G. Howard, Pastor, Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church*

Luke 6:27-36 -- *The Rev. Lynn Bozich Shetzer, Retired, Presbyterian Church USA*

(Jesus said,) 27 But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate
you, 28 bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. 29 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. 30 Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes
away your goods, do not ask for them again. 31 Do to others as you would have them do to
you.
32 If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those
who love them. 33 If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you?
For even sinners do the same. 34 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. 35 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. 36 Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

Officiant: The Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

HYMN: "Amazing Grace," verses 3-5

SERMON: ***The Rev. Eric G. Howard, Pastor, Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church***

Hymn: "Where the Cross the Crowded Ways of Life"

The Prayers

The people stand or kneel

Officiant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Officiant: Let us pray.

All:

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.

The Suffrages

V. Show us your mercy, o lord;
r. And grant us your salvation.
V. Clothe your ministers with righteousness;
r. Let your people sing with joy.
V. Give peace, o lord, in all the world;
r. For only in you can we live in safety.
V. Lord, keep this nation under your care;
r. And guide us in the way of justice and truth.
V. Let your way be known upon earth;
r. Your saving health among all nations.
V. Let not the needy, o lord, be forgotten;
r. Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.
V. Create in us clean hearts, o god;
r. And sustain us with your holy spirit.

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 Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the holy spirit, one God, now and for ever. ***Amen.***

A Litany for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day -- *Carol Sutek and M.L. Schultze, St. Paul's Episcopal Church*

Divine One, infinite love, known to us by many names.

Today, we remember the rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., whose prophetic journey continues to mark our days, inspire our hearts and guide our feet.

In this moment of celebration let us not move too quickly, but allow our attention to focus on a world that is still sin-sick and falls so short of the mark of love and justice.

Before we move on, allow our hearts to be broken open with the sorrow and pain of the child who wakes with hunger in the night, one of the 40 million living in poverty in this the richest of lands.

Before we move on, allow our hearts to be broken open with the those who cannot trust the contaminated water in their sink to quench the thirst of thier children, relying instead on the contents of plastic bottles that will make their way to suffocate the oceans.

Before we move on, allow our hearts to be broken open with the immigrants hiding and living in fear, whose insufficient papers express nothing of the dignity they have already been afforded as those made in god's image.

Before we move on, allow our hearts to be broken open with the ones who marched with Dr. King and fought for justice, only to find their name removed from voter registration rolls when they go to cast their vote.

Before we move on, allow our hearts to be broken open with the person in prison, caught up in a system that destroys lives and families; one more casualty in the U.S. that has the highest incarceration rate in the world.

Before we move on, allow our hearts to be broken open with the all those in the LGBTQ+ community who live with the daily threat of violence just for being who they are.

Before we move on, help us sit with one another for as long as it takes to share our broken hearts, acknowledge the magnitude of the pain of injustice, and confess how far we are from your vision for creation.

Before we move on, hollow us out with sorrow, and let our tears freely flow, so there will be room enough for hope to grow again.

O God, just as you inspired Dr. King to not let sorrow have the last word, so move us forward

Move us forward to recognize your face in the human faces of all who struggle for dignity and liberation in this moment

Move us forward to challenge injustice, to resist and repair, to march and to vote, to disrupt and to wake up.

Move us forward to stand for just legislation and structures that support the many and not just the few.

Move us forward to experience fierce joy–dance and laughter, the wild and the holy–that no one can take from us.

Move us forward to create the future story of America where difference is celebrated, abundance is shared and people are hopeful, working together for a future better than today.

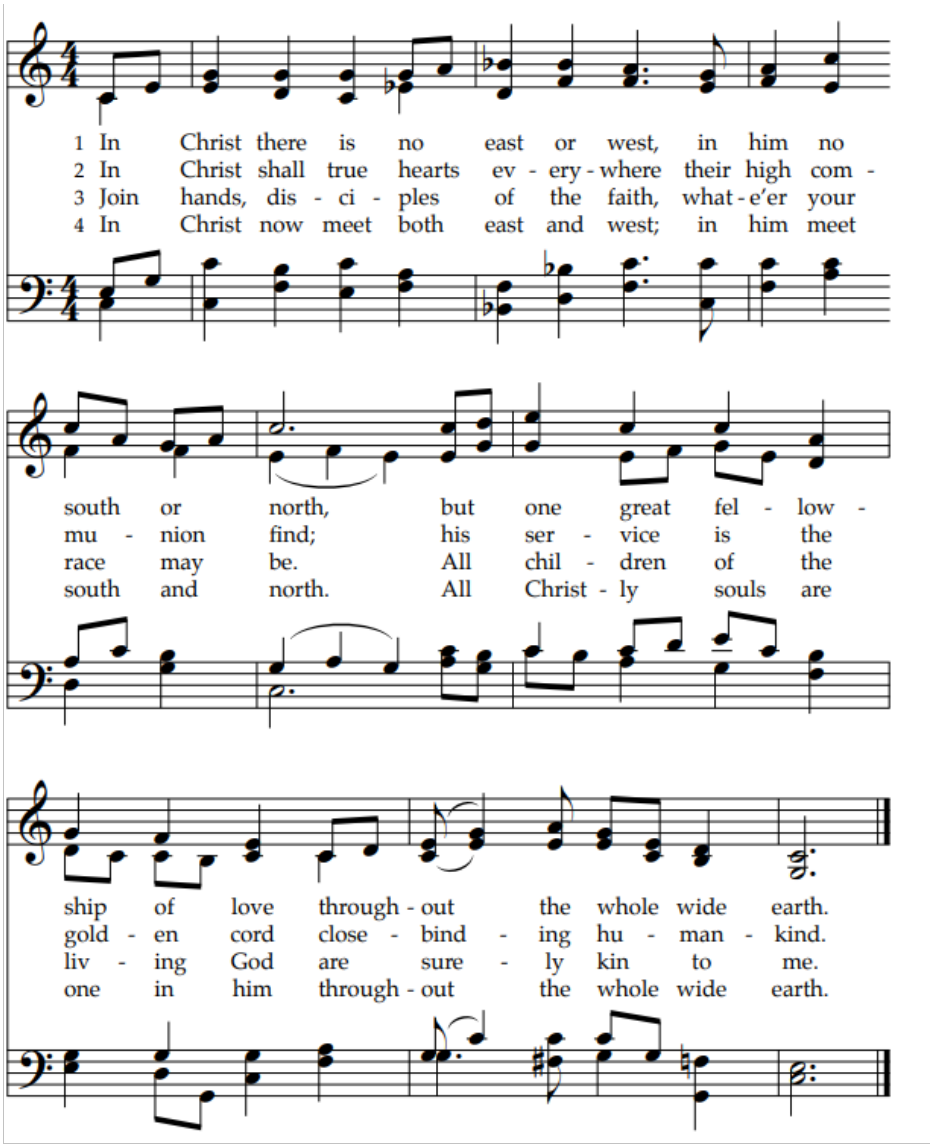
Move us forward as beloved community "caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, bound in a single garment of destiny." May it be so. **Amen**.

Concluding Collects -- *Douglas Comery, St. Paul's Episcopal Church*

O God, you made us in your own image and redeemed us through Jesus your Son: Look with compassion on the whole human family; take away the arrogance and hatred which infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; unite us in bonds of love; and

work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish your purposes on earth; that, in your good time, all nations and races may serve you in
harmony around your heavenly throne; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

O God, you have made of one blood all the peoples of the earth, and sent your blessed Son to preach peace to those who are far off and to those who are near: Grant that people everywhere may seek after you and find you; bring the nations into your fold; pour out your Spirit upon all flesh; and hasten the coming of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Hymn: "In Christ there is no East or West"

Commissioning for Community Service

Those planning to serve in the community are to come forward.

The leader then says: Dear friends, today we recognize those who stand before us and commission each of them to tasks of service.

The leader invites the congregation to stretch their hands in prayer toward those being commissioned.

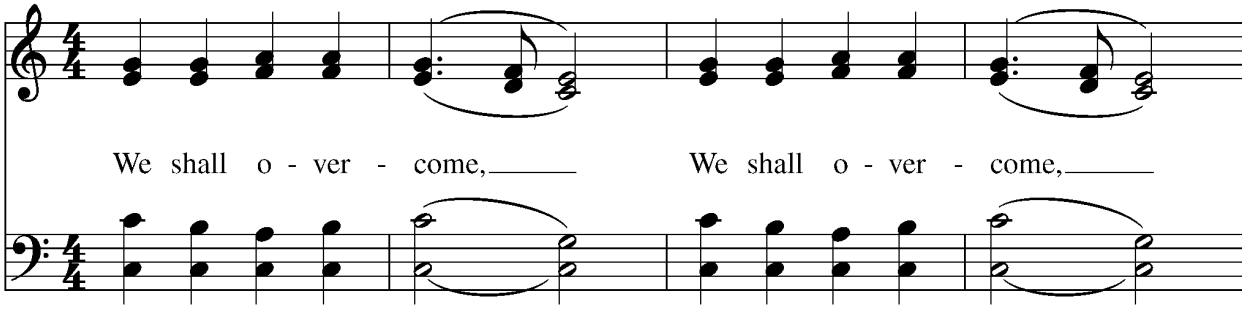
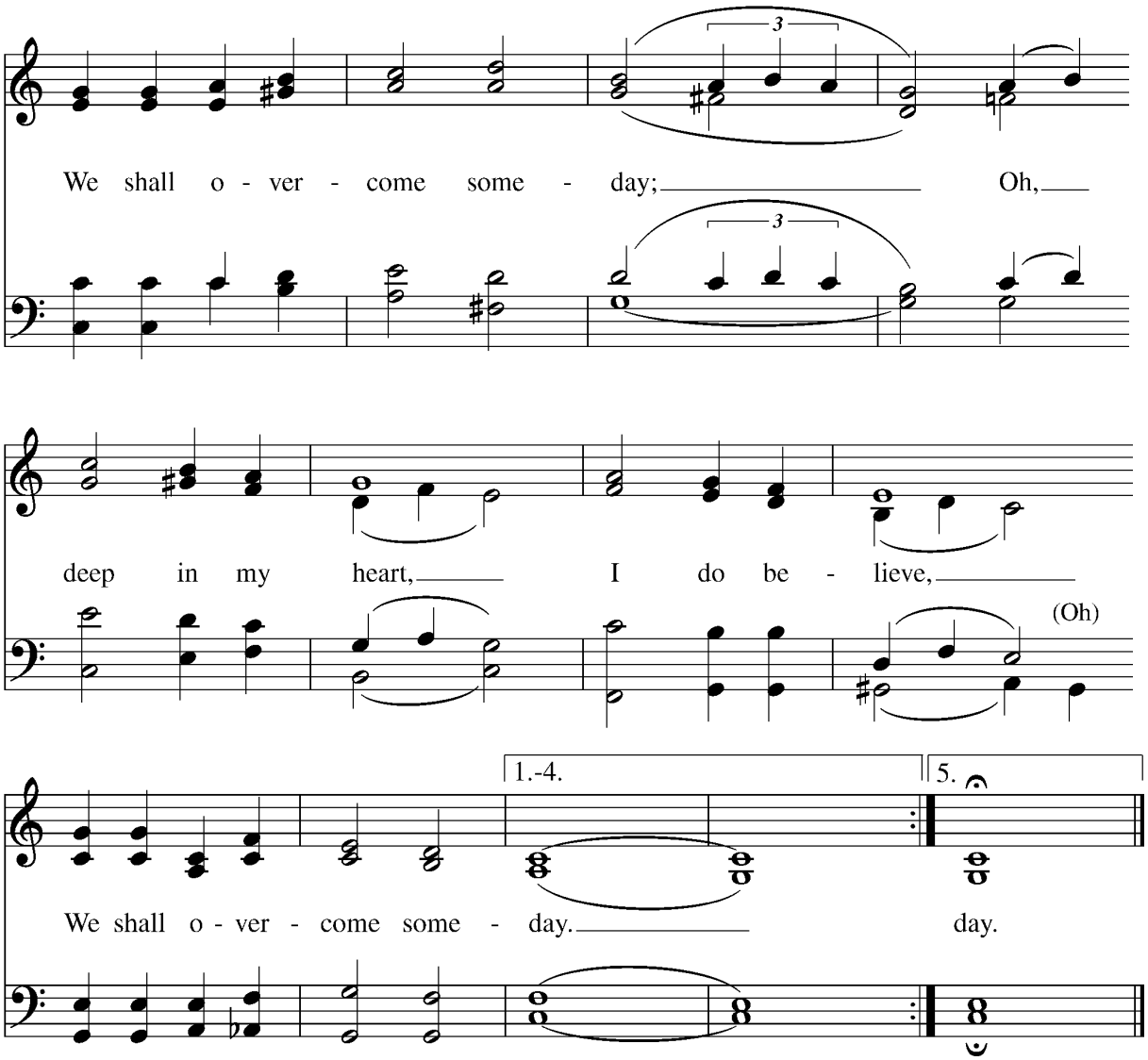
The leader then says: In the Spirit of God, and on behalf of all present, I commission you to this work and pledge our prayers, encouragement, and support to you. May the Holy Spirit guide and strengthen you, so that in this and in all things, you may do God's will in the service of Jesus Christ.

The leader concludes with the following: Almighty God, you have called us to be servants of Jesus Christ and to share in his ministry of love to all people. Look with favor upon these persons who today affirm commitment to serve in their community with a heart of compassion. Renew their zeal, and give each of them courage, patience, and vision. Direct them by your spirit of wisdom, and fill them with the gifts of your grace, that they may declare your wonderful deeds and show your love to the world. God of grace, strengthen us all in our Christian vocation of witness to the world and of service to others, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Offering: Today's offering has been designated for Courageous Conversations. St. Paul's hosts monthly discussions of racial reconciliation and social justice with Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church, and others from our broader community. We pray that we will continue to cultivate existing relationships and to build new ones as we face the racial issues affecting our community. Please consider giving toward these efforts. The offering plates are located at the rear of the sanctuary.

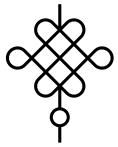
Officiant: Let us bless the lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

Officiant*:* "May the God of peace, who calls us to be one, bless you and keep you. May God's presence go with you as you strive for justice and equality, challenging oppression and living out radical love. May the flame of righteousness that burned in Dr. King ignite within you, guiding your steps and strengthening your resolve, today and always. **Amen.**

Recessional Hymn: "We Shall Overcome"

2. We'll walk hand in hand, today.
3. God is on our side, today.
4. We are not afraid, today.
5. We shall live in peace, someday.

"Take the first step in faith. You don't have to see the whole staircase, just take the first step."

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. from the recollection of Marian Wright Edelman



Participants

Officiants

The Rev. Joe and the Rev. Kay Ashby, Extended Supply Clergy, St. Paul's Episcopal Church

Preacher

The Rev. Eric G. Howard, Pastor, Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church

Organist

Edward Grimes, St. Paul's Episcopal Church

Welcome

Molly Weisel, St. Paul's Episcopal Church

Readers

Edina Carpenter, Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church

Rabbi David Komerofsky, Temple Israel

LaDonna Massey, Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church

The Rev. Lynn Bozich Shetzer, Retired, Presbyterian Church USA

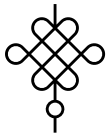
Prayer Leaders

The Rev. Hector McDaniel, President of Stark County NAACP

Carol Sutek, St. Paul's Episcopal Church

M.L. Schultze, St. Paul's Episcopal Church,

Douglas Comery, St. Paul's Episcopal Church



Social Justice Book Club

Meets fourth Tuesday of each month,
6:30 p.m. in the Guild Hall of St. Paul's