The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
Joint Worship Service

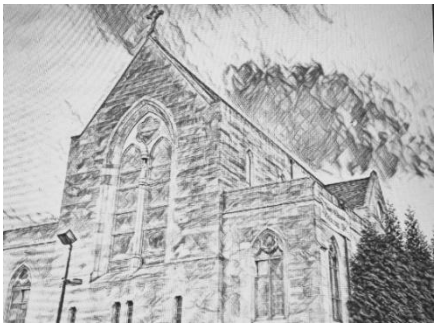
January 16, 2023 ~ 12 noon
St. Paul's Episcopal, Host Church

MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY

A day of service and learning.

Welcome to St. Paul's Episcopal Church

Our mission
St. Paul's is a radically welcoming Episcopal community in downtown Canton, grounded in faith, called by God's Love to minister to the world.



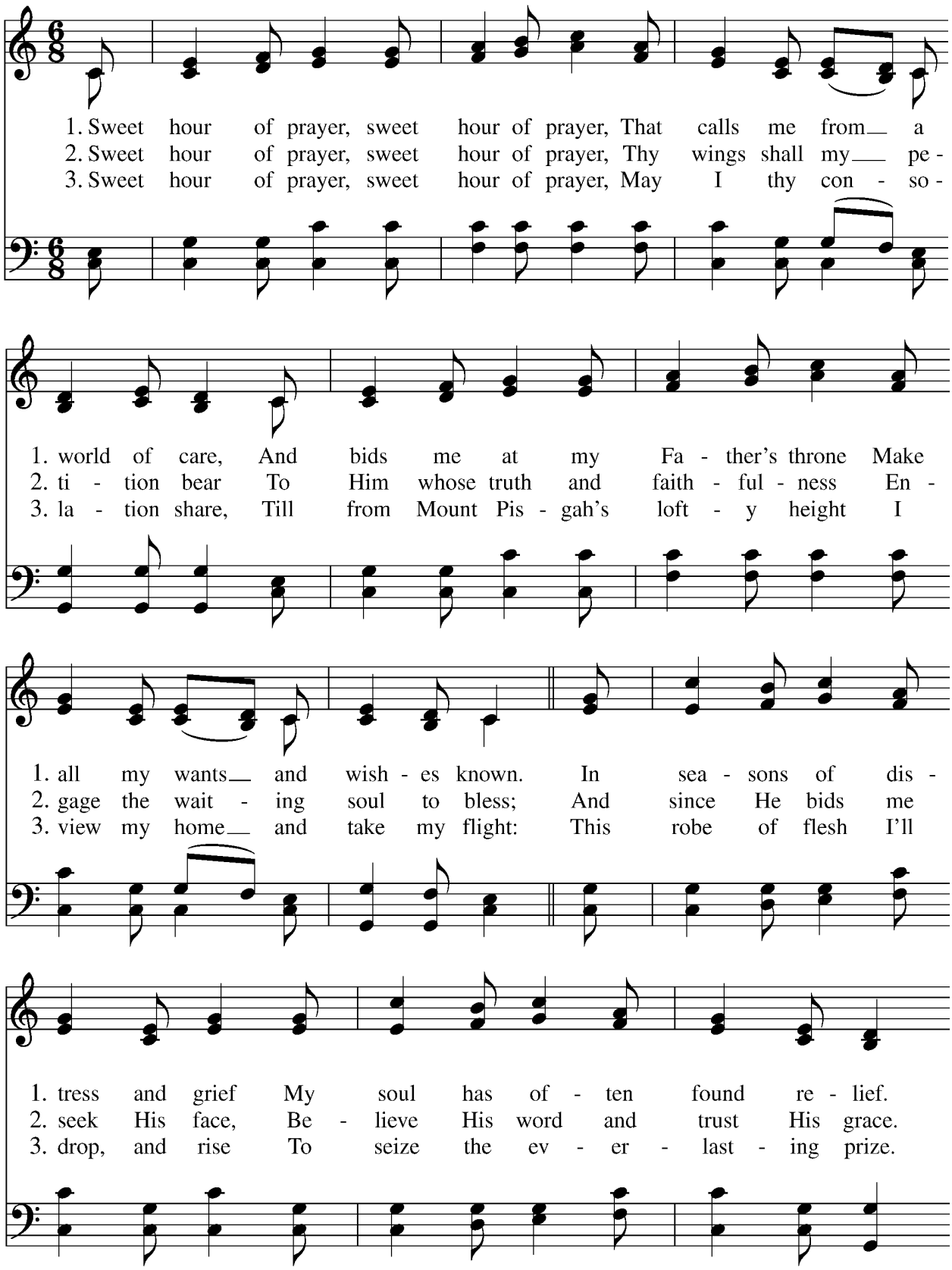
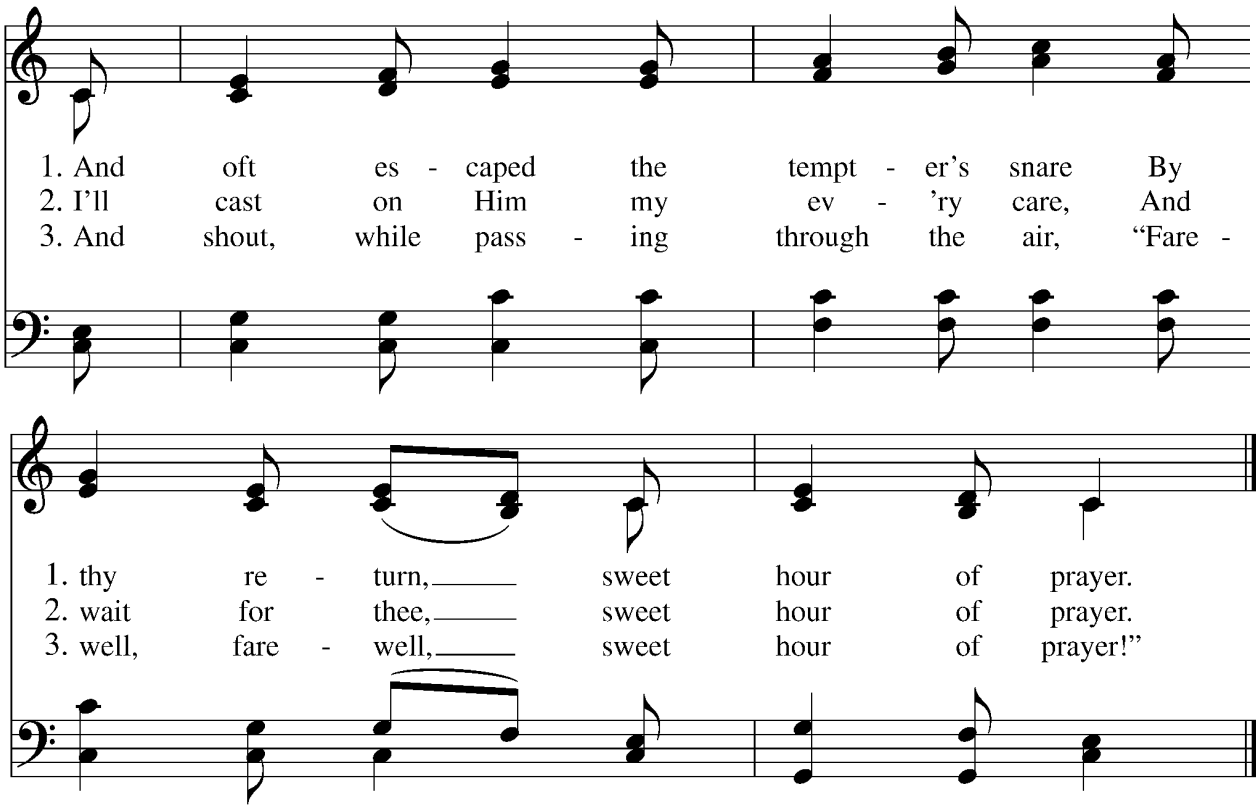
Organizers

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

StarkFresh
321 Cherry Ave NE, Canton, OH 44702
Website: www.starkfresh.org
Cell 330.333.0866
Office 330.353.8793

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
Rev. Dr. Robin Woodberry, Deacon-in-Charge

ENTRANCE HYMN: *"Sweet Hour of Prayer"* (LEVAS 178)

All stand.



Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People And also with you.
Celebrant Let us pray.

A Prayer of Invocation based on King's "Letter from Birmingham Jail"
https://allenvandermeulen.org/2022/01/17/a-prayer-of-invocation-based-on-kings-letter-from-birmingham-jail/

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.

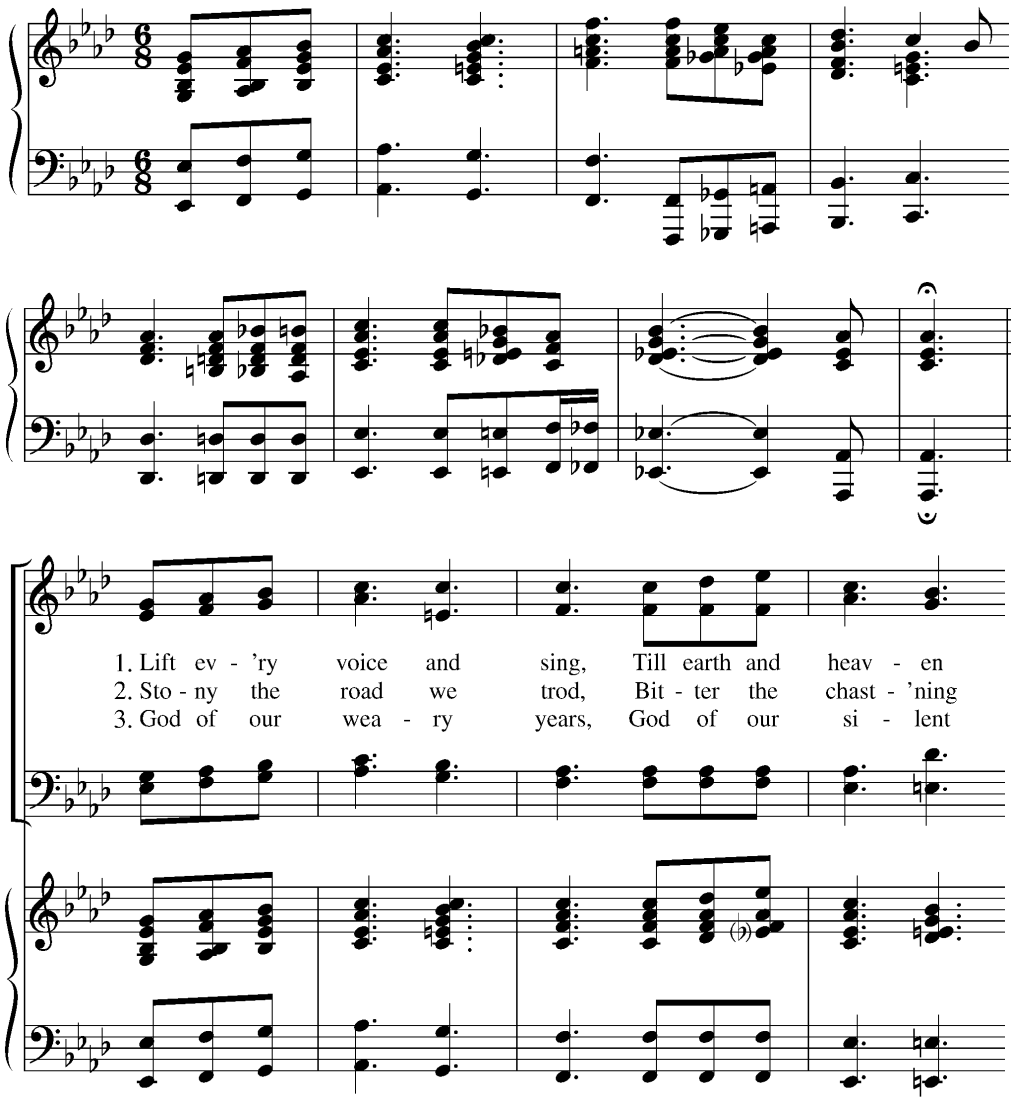
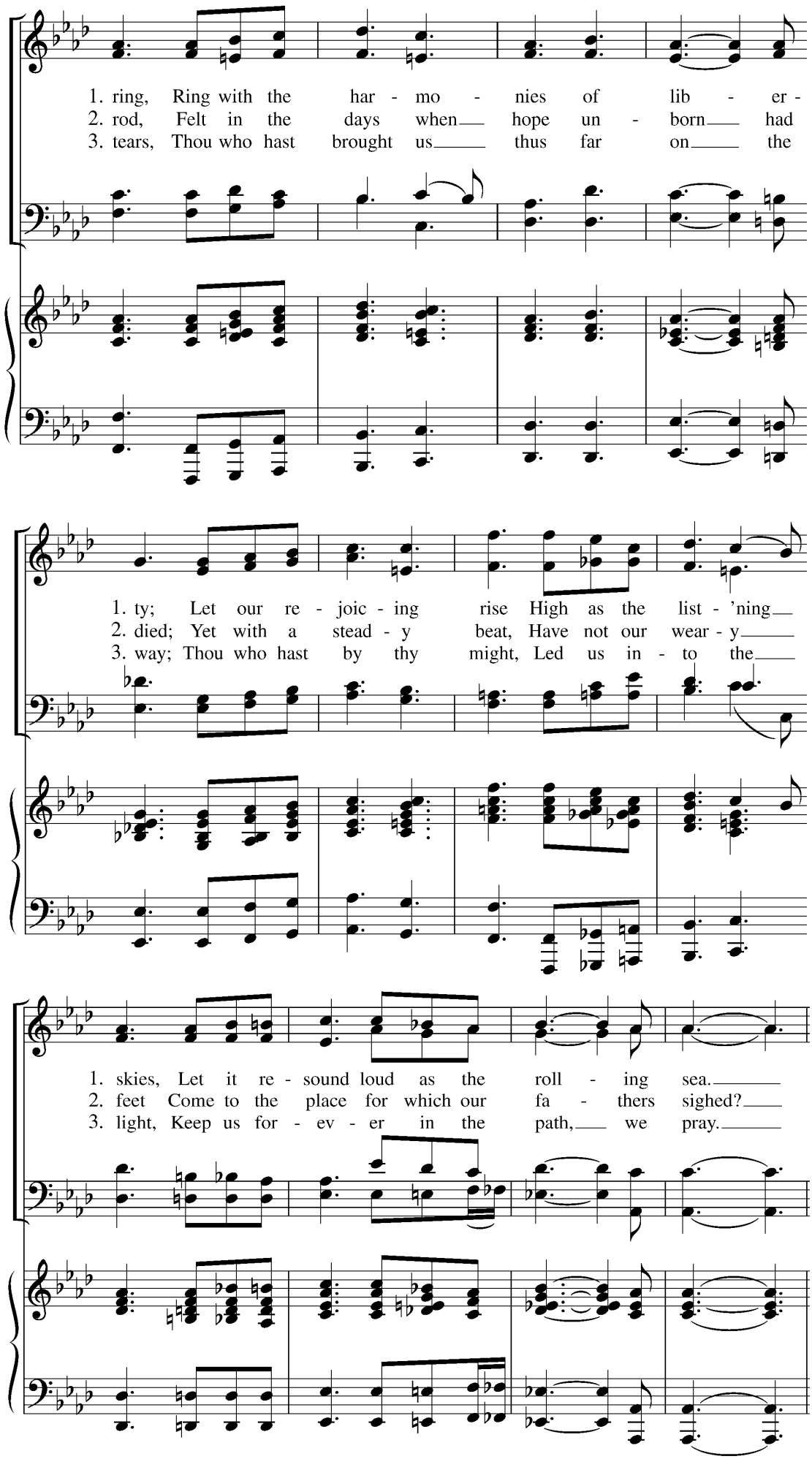
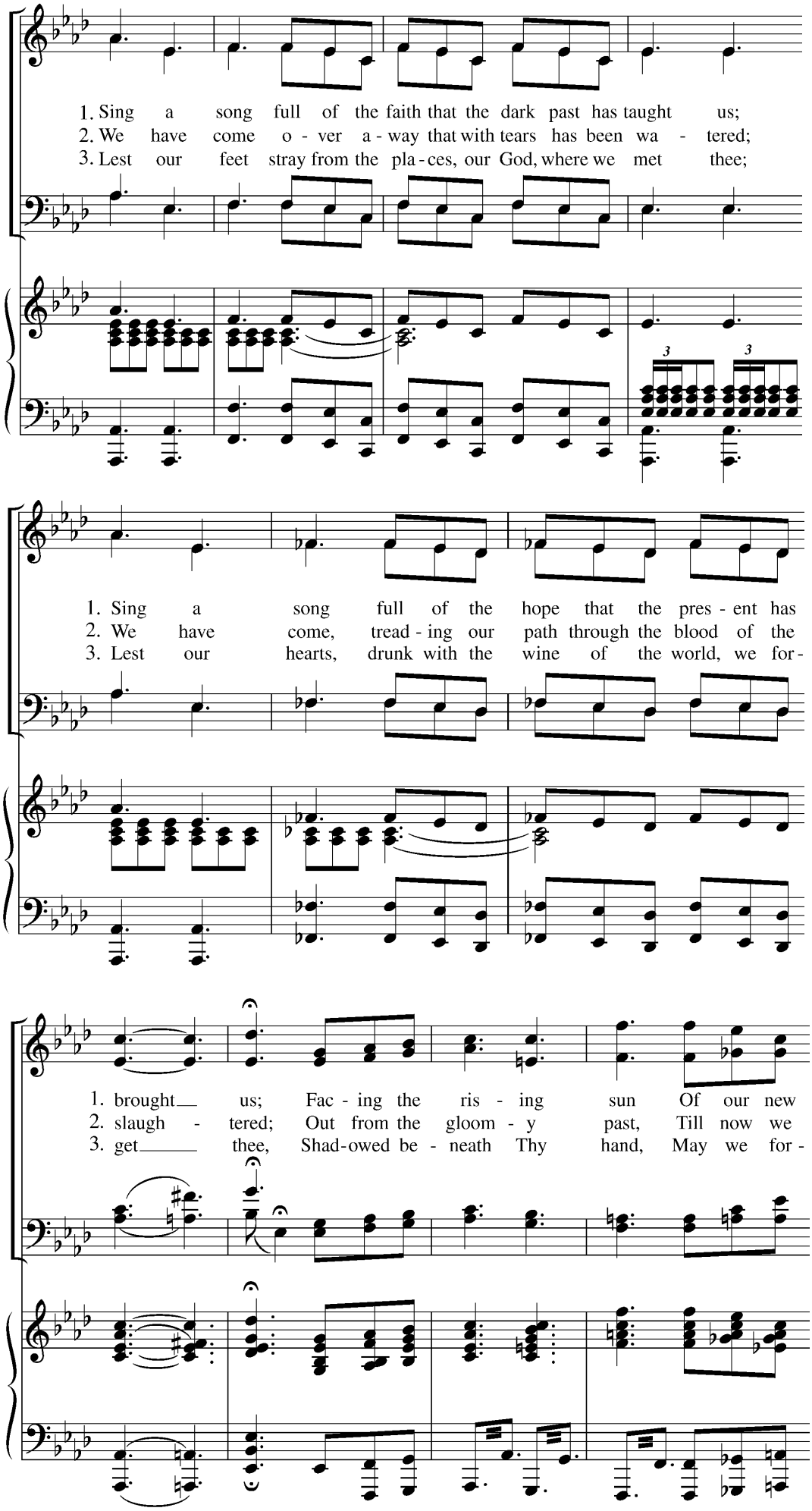
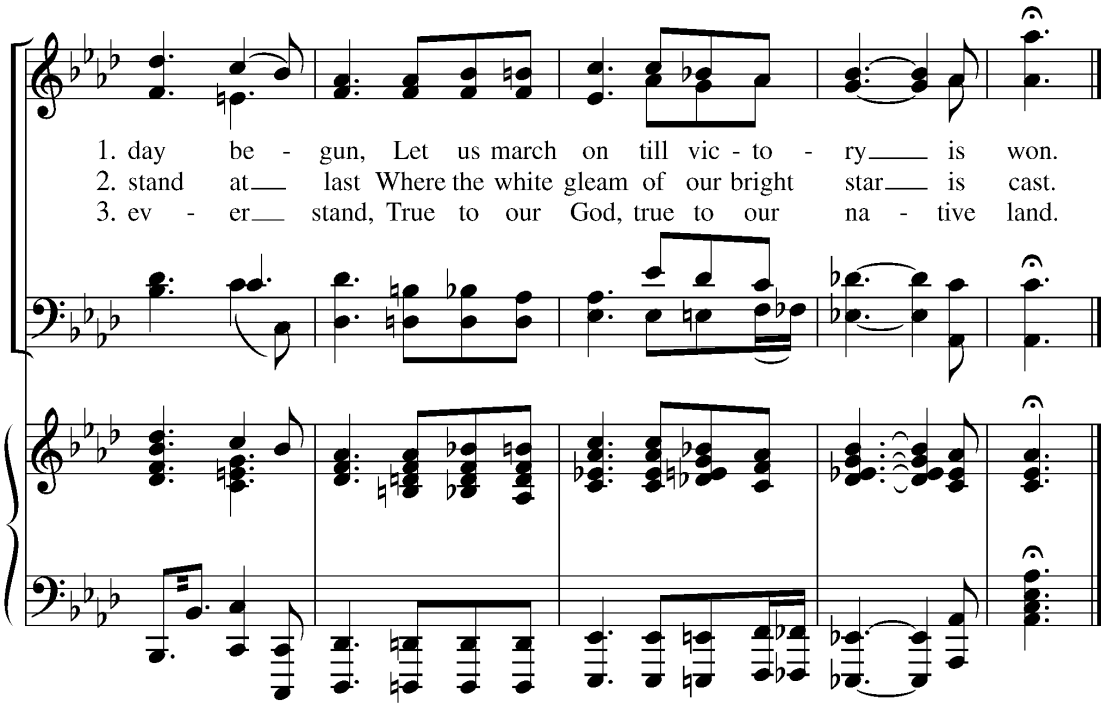
The preacher wrote that human progress never rolls in on wheels of inevitability; but comes through the tireless efforts of those of us willing to be co-workers with God, and that without this hard work, time itself becomes an ally of the forces of stagnation and hate.

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**

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN: *"Lift Every Voice and Sing"* (LEVAS 1)
All stand.

1. ring, Ring with the har - mo - nies of lib - er -
2. rod, Felt in the days when hope un - born had
3. tears, Thou who hast brought us thus far on the
1. ty; Let our re - joic - ing rise High as the list - 'ning
2. died; Yet with a stead - y beat, Have not our wear - y
3. way; Thou who hast by thy might, Led us in - to the
1. skies, Let it re - sound loud as the roll - ing sea.
2. feet Come to the place for which our fa - thers sighed?
3. light, Keep us for - ev - er in the path, we pray.

1. Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;
2. We have come o - ver a - way that with tears has been wa - tered;
3. Lest our feet stray from the pla - ces, our God, where we met thee;
1. Sing a song full of the hope that the pres - ent has
2. We have come, tread - ing our path through the blood of the
3. Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, we for -
1. brought us; Fac - ing the ris - ing sun Of our new
2. slaugh - tered; Out from the gloom - y past, Till now we
3. get thee, Shad - owed be - neath Thy hand, May we for -

A Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Litany
https://auburnseminary.org/voices/an-mlk-litany-for-the-poor-peoples-campaign/#

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 mother in Flint or on the Gulf Coast who cannot trust the contaminated water in her sink to quench the thirst of her 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 immigrant father hiding in the storeroom of the 7-Eleven, whose insufficient papers express nothing of the dignity he has already been afforded as one made in God's image.

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

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

Before we move on, allow our hearts to be broken open with the Trans sister, who lives with the daily threat of violence just for being who she is.

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.

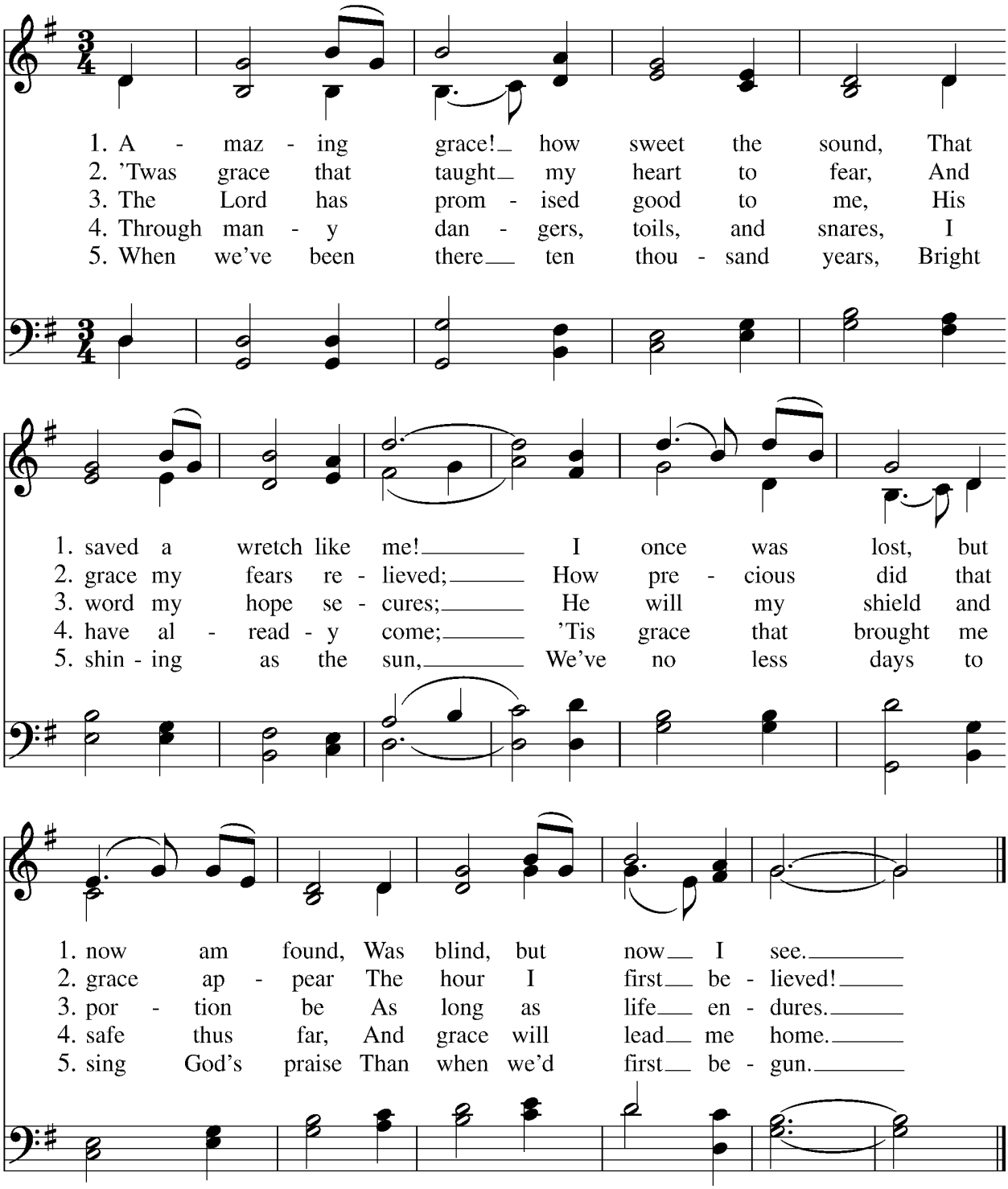
Move us forward to stand for just legislation and structures that support the many and not just the few.

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.**

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN: *"Amazing Grace"* (LEVAS 181)

All stand.

Sermon: Rev. Dr. Robin Woodberry

Commissioning for Community Service: Rev. Eric G. Howard
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 a special task of service today.

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.

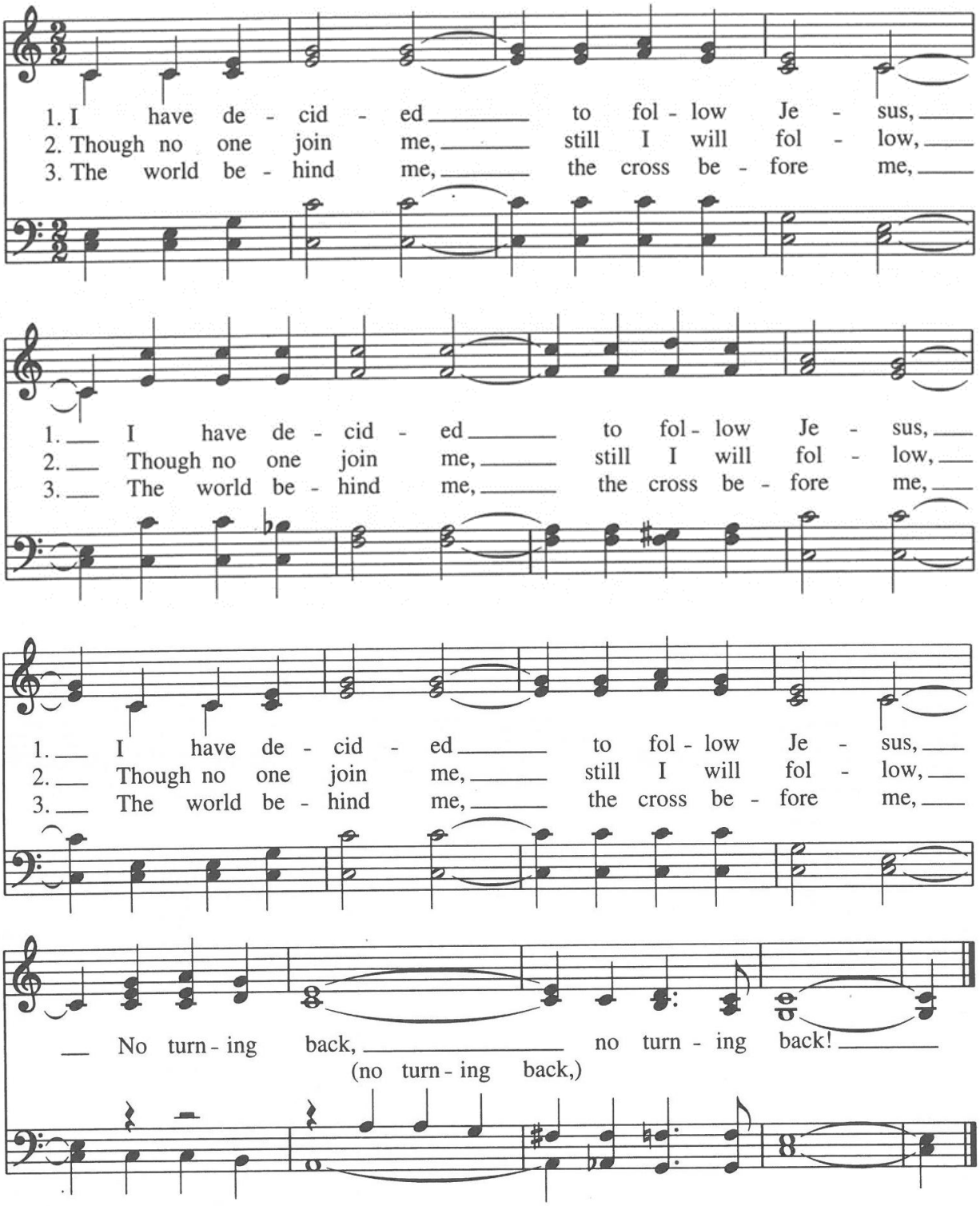
The leader concludes with the following:
Almighty God, you have called us to be servants of Jesus Christ and to share in his ministry of love to all people. Look with favor upon these persons who today affirm commitment to serve in their community with a heart of compassion. Renew their zeal, and give 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 to Courageous Conversations
St. Paul's has resumed hosting monthly discussions of racial reconciliation and social justice with Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church, and StarkFresh. We pray that we will continue to cultivate existing relationships and begin building 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.

Announcements: Tom Phillips, Executive Director ~ StarkFresh

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN: *"I Have Decided to Follow Jesus"* *(LEVAS 136)*

All stand.



Words: Ascribed to an Indian Prince; as sung in Garo, Assam
Music: Indian Folk Melody; arr. Norman Johnson
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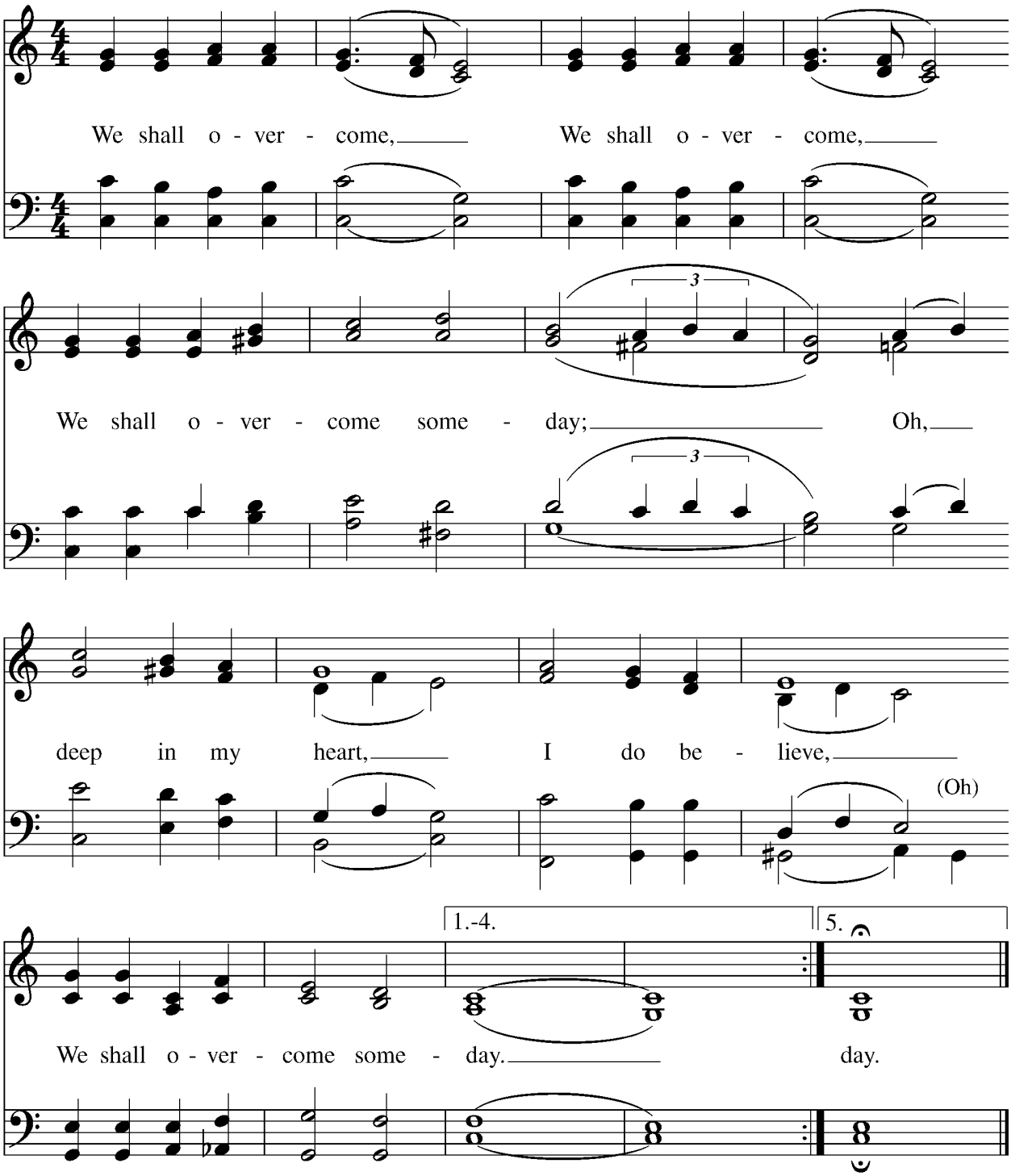
Closing Prayer & Benediction: Rev. Eric G. Howard

RECESSIONAL HYMN: *"We Shall Overcome"* (LEVAS 227)

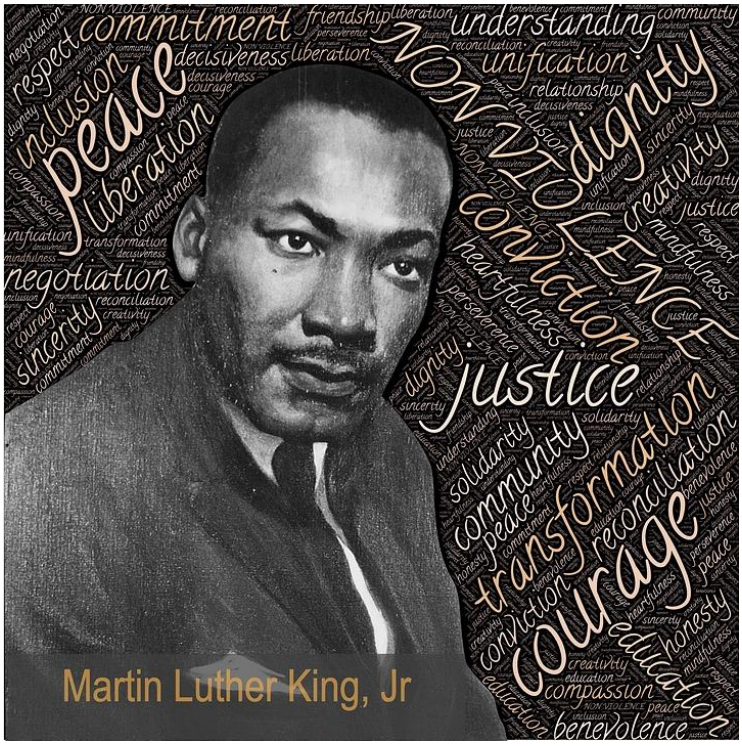
All stand.



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.

Participants in Today's Celebration:

Deacon-in-Charge:	**The Rev. Dr. Robin Woodberry**
Guest Clergy:	**The Rev. Eric G. Howard**
Director of Music:	**Edward T. Grimes**
Lector:	**M.L. Schultze**
Crucifer:	**Douglas Colmery**
Greeter:	**David Lewis**
Camera/Audio:	**David Lewis**
Counters:	**M.L. Schultze, Cara Warren**



Martin Luther King, Jr. was born on January 15, 1929, in Atlanta, Georgia, the second child of Martin Luther King Sr., a pastor, and Alberta Williams King, a former schoolteacher.

The Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., was a social activist and Baptist minister who played a key role in the American civil rights movement from the mid-1950s until his assassination in 1968.

King sought equality and human rights for African Americans, the economically disadvantaged, and all victims of injustice through peaceful protest. He was the driving force behind watershed events such as the Montgomery Bus Boycott and the 1963 March on Washington, which helped bring about such landmark legislation as the Civil Rights Act and the Voting Rights Act.

King was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964 and is remembered each year on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, a U.S. federal holiday since 1986.
https://www.biography.com/activist/martin-luther-king-jr

COURAGROUS CONVERSATIONS ON RACE RELATIONS

CC ON ...RR

FEB 21

COURAGEOUS CONVERSATION ON RACE RELATIONS

CURRICULUM & DINNER

LESSON 1: INTRODUCTION TO REDLINING

THIS CURRICULUM WAS ADAPTED FROM OUR ORIGINAL COURAGEOUS CONVERSATIONS HELD 2019-2020 AMONG THE THREE FOUNDING GROUPS, STARKFRESH, MT. OLIVE BAPTIST CHURCH AND ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH. IT HAS BEEN FIELD-TESTED AND IS DESIGNED TO TAKE PLACE IN A SOCIAL GATHERING WHERE FOOD IS PROVIDED AS A COMMON CURRENCY TO MAKE PEOPLE FEEL WELCOME. A WARNING OF SORTS, PROPER USE OF THE CURRICULUM WILL CREATE SITUATIONS OF EXTREME EMOTION FROM PARTICIPANTS AS IT CREATES A SAFE FORMAT FOR ONE TO LOOK INWARD AND ASSES THEIR OWN BELIEFS. THIS CURRICULUM HAS BEEN KNOWN TO CREATE STRONG, PERSONAL BONDS WITH OTHER PARTICIPANTS AND PROPEL YOU ON A JOURNEY OF SOUL AND INFORMATION SEEKING OPPORTUNITIES

425 CLEVELAND AVE SW, CANTON, OH

6PM - 8:15PM

DINNER AT 6 • CURRICULUM AT 6:30

CCORR MISSION: A DIVERSE GROUP 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

REGISTER ONLINE STARKFRESH.ORG OR SCAN QR CODE

Celebrating 10 YEARS StarkFresh

COMMITTEE MEMBERS WANTED

MISSION: TACKLING THE CAUSES OF HUNGER BY CREATING REALISTIC PATHWAYS OUT OF POVERTY

We use committees made up of staff, board member and volunteers like you from the general public to help guide much of the work that we do.

If helping us out interests you but you don't have time or aren't ready for the commitment required to be a board member, being on one of our committees is the right choice for you.

With several committees to choose from, there's sure to be one that fits you best and allows you to use your talent to help our agency.

to learn more about Starkfresh, what we do, and how you can help guide us, visit www.starkfresh.org