



*Sunday, January 17, 2021*

# *Human Relations Sunday*

## *Martin Luther King Birthday Observance*

### *Order of Service*

**Gathering Song**..... **“Sweet, Sweet Spirit”** (*Hymnal, #334*)

There’s a sweet, sweet Spirit in this place, and I know that it’s the spirit of the Lord; There are sweet expressions on each face, and I know they feel the presence of the Lord. Sweet holy Spirt, sweet heavenly Dove, stay right here with us filling us with your love; and for these blessings we lift our hearts in praise; without a doubt we’ll know that we have been revived when we shall leave this place.

**Greeting/Call to Worship**..... **Ms. Cynthia**

Leader: May the love that Dr. King had for all people be released in us.

**Sandy: May that love work miracles in the lives of those who continue to hate.**

Leader: May his struggle for social transformation continue in this generation.

**Sandy: May all people come to believe that with perseverance “We Shall Overcome”**

Leader: May the work of Dr. King continue to eradicate racial injustice.

**Sandy: May we continue to cultivate the nonviolent discipline of Dr. King. May we continue as Dr. King, to allow God to lead us.**

**Hymn of Praise**..... **“Lead Me Guide Me”**  
*(sing along with this familiar hymn)*

**Prayer of Confession and Assurance**..... **Ms. Cynthia**

In every era, God has chosen men and women to serve the needs of his people. Such a servant was Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., whose birth we celebrate. We are deeply thankful for the life of this twentieth century prophet. As we gather in worship today asking for our forgiveness of sins either by omission or commission, may the wisdom and words of Dr. King rekindle our faith.  
**Amen.**

**The Lord’s Prayer**..... **Ms. Cynthia**

Our Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, The power, and the glory, For ever and ever. Amen.

**The Invocation**..... **LáAngel**

**Song of Meditation — “No Weapon”** (featuring Fred Hammond)

**The Prayer of Illumination** ..... **Ms. Cynthia**

Gracious God, as we listen to your Holy Word today, may it provide new interpretation and inspiration to continue the work that our brother Dr. King began. **Amen.**

**Scripture Reading #1** ..... **Sandy**

(*Exodus 1:1–13, Common English Bible*)

**1** These are the names of the Israelites who came to Egypt with Jacob along with their households: <sup>2</sup> Reuben, Simeon, Levi, and Judah, <sup>3</sup> Issachar, Zebulun, and Benjamin, <sup>4</sup> Dan and Naphtali, Gad and Asher. <sup>5</sup> The total number in Jacob’s family was seventy. Joseph was already in Egypt. <sup>6</sup> Eventually, Joseph, his brothers, and everyone in his generation died. <sup>7</sup> But the Israelites were fertile and became populous. They multiplied and grew dramatically, filling the whole land.

**Israel is Oppressed**

<sup>8</sup> Now a new king came to power in Egypt who didn’t know Joseph. <sup>9</sup> He said to his people, “The Israelite people are now larger in number and stronger than we are. <sup>10</sup> Come on, let’s be smart and deal with them. Otherwise, they will only grow in number. And if war breaks out, they will join our enemies, fight against us, and then escape from the land.” <sup>11</sup> As a result, the Egyptians put foremen of forced work gangs over the Israelites to harass them with hard work. They had to build storage cities named Pithom and Rameses for Pharaoh. <sup>12</sup> But the more they were oppressed, the more they grew and spread, so much so that the Egyptians started to look at the Israelites with disgust and dread. <sup>13</sup> So the Egyptians enslaved the Israelites.

**Scripture Reading #2** ..... **Gemma**

(*1 Corinthians 6:12–20, Common English Bible*)

**Avoid Sexual Immorality**

<sup>12</sup> I have the freedom to do anything, but not everything is helpful. I have the freedom to do anything, but I won’t be controlled by anything. <sup>13</sup> Food is for the stomach and the stomach is for food, and yet God will do away with both. The body isn’t for sexual immorality but for the Lord, and the Lord is for the body. <sup>14</sup> God has raised the Lord and will raise us through his power. <sup>15</sup> Don’t you know that your bodies are parts of Christ? So then, should I take parts of Christ and make them a part of someone who is sleeping around? No way! <sup>16</sup> Don’t you know that anyone who is joined to someone who is sleeping around is one body with that person? The scripture says, *The two will become one flesh.* <sup>17</sup> The one who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with him. <sup>18</sup> Avoid sexual immorality! Every sin that a person can do is committed outside the body, except those who engage in sexual immorality commit sin against their own bodies. <sup>19</sup> Or don’t you know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you? Don’t you know that you have the Holy Spirit from God, and you don’t belong to yourselves? <sup>20</sup> You have been bought and paid for, so honor God with your body.

**Scripture Reading #3** ..... **Deidre**

(*John 1:43-51, Common English Bible*)

<sup>43</sup> The next day Jesus wanted to go into Galilee, and he found Philip. Jesus said to him, “Follow me.” <sup>44</sup> Philip was from Bethsaida, the hometown of Andrew and Peter.

45 Philip found Nathanael and said to him, “We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law and the Prophets: Jesus, Joseph’s son, from Nazareth.”

46 Nathanael responded, “Can anything from Nazareth be good?”

Philip said, “Come and see.”

47 Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him and said about him, “Here is a genuine Israelite in whom there is no deceit.”

48 Nathanael asked him, “How do you know me?”

Jesus answered, “Before Philip called you, I saw you under the fig tree.”

49 Nathanael replied, “Rabbi, you are God’s Son. You are the king of Israel.”

50 Jesus answered, “Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these! 51 I assure you that you will see heaven open and God’s angels going up to heaven and down to earth on the Human One.”

**Doxology – “Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow” ..... Ms. Cynthia**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here be low; praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. **Amen.**

**The Affirmation of Faith — “The Apostles’ Creed” ..... Ms. Cynthia**

I believe in God the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth:

And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, dead, and buried:  
the third day he rose again from the dead;  
he ascended into heaven,  
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;  
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit;  
the holy catholic church; the communion of saints;  
the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. **Amen.**

**The Gloria Patri – “Glory Be to the Father” ..... Ms. Cynthia**

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.**

**Children / Youth Moment ..... Sister Jaime**

**Introduction of Guest Soloist ..... Rev. Eugene W. Matthews**

**Hymn of Preparation — “If I Can Help Somebody” (Soloist—Dr. Loretta Jackson)**

Inspirational Message..... Rev. Eugene W. Matthews

## *“The Lord Is On Our Side”*

**Praise and Prayer Concerns**

**Invitation / Altar Call**

**Invitation Selection — “Precious Lord”** *(featuring Mahalia Jackson)*

**Announcements**

**Benediction**

# Announcements

## Pray Daily at Noon

Please remember to pray daily at NOON. Some areas to include in your prayer, can include the pandemic, racial healing, government leaders, educational challenges, and most importantly for our sick and shut-ins and each other.



**Wednesdays (7:15 p.m.) — Wednesday Night Experience. Call-in Information: 712-770-4010 (Access code: 331960)**

**This is Human Relations Sunday**, if you are able to make an additional offering, please do so. If you give on-line, just add a note saying this offering is for Human Relations Sunday, otherwise just make a note saying how much you are contributing in a note to Finance. Thank you in advance. Additional information at the end of the bulletin will provide you with what this offering is used for.

**Its that time again!!! Girl Scout Cookie time.** Jaylah is a member of Troop #4887 and is taking orders, for additional information reach out to Tiara at 202.603.9800. Varieties include: **Lemon Ups, Trefoils, Do-Si-Dos, Tagalongs, Samoas, Thin Mints, GS S'Mores, Toffee-Tastics.** Initials orders due January 11<sup>th</sup>, but it is never too late to order. Monies due when you receive your cookies.

**If you are a Step Afrika fan**, tune in to the premiere of **No Justice, No Peace** on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [YouTube](#) and [www.stepafrika.org](http://www.stepafrika.org). This premiere will be available for **extended viewing until Friday January 22, 2021 at 11:59pm/et.** Share this moment with your community!

**Note from Finance:** First, let us give a big thank you to all that have been giving. This is a reminder that there are several ways to get your offering to the church:

1. You can drop it off at the church, place in the mailbox (Cynthia and David Burley check it regularly) **(This will save you postage)**
2. You can mail it to the church (601 Eighth Street, Laurel, MD 20707)
3. You can use on-line giving (Give–St. Marks — <https://www.shelbygiving.com/app/giving/stmarkslmd>)
4. Reach out to member of finance, they will try to accommodate you.

Again, thank you. Just remember, even during the pandemic, the church building still has obligations that need to be met.



*"Proclaiming Christ to the generations...  
Equipping disciples to transform the world"*

**Special Prayers / Sick and Shut-In List:** If you hear of anyone that is in need of special prayer or is taken to the hospital, please contact: Rev. Eugene Matthews (443.257.2730 (cell), 410.379.0600 (home), [reveugene@comcast.net](mailto:reveugene@comcast.net))

Eric Smith, Brian Bailey, Rayvon Roy, Joyce Gibson, Tony Tingle, Mitchell Talley, LaKisha Thomas, James (Stoney) Carroll, Marva Thomas, Nena Hughes, Deysha Gibson, Gloria Thomas, Sharon Thomas, Rev. George F. DeFord, Wanda Dumas, Sherman / Erica Roy, Janeen Thomas, Eunice Harding (Gemma's Mother), Tyrone / Pat Mundell, Samuel / James Briggs (Cynthia Burley's brothers), Charles Burley, Joan Moore, Larry Powell, Veronica Miller, Jeanette Reeves, Ernestine Gibson, Mildred Awkward, Grace Elaine Catchings, James Matthews, Birdie Walker, Paul Browder, Laura Dotson, Phillip Reese, Lamar Payne, Kevin Miller, Nancy Daniels, Eunice Parker, Hannah Polk, Delores Tyler

**Eunice Dumas**

1909 Sheffield Court  
Severn, MD 21144  
410.551.2435

**Umbrenda Fisher**

9160 Charlton Place  
Douglasville, GA 39135

**Ruth Miller**

1206 Peachwood Lane  
Bowie, MD 20716  
240.245.4560

**Mrs. Edlin Chambers**

14904 4<sup>th</sup> Street  
Laurel, MD  
347.423.2764

**Diane Cobb**

410.802.1427

**Eric Smith's story:** [https://www.spotfund.com/story/5700aa0f-3368-4593-92ac-1cbcad6fa551?created=true&fbclid=IwAR22RY6XyC06K4w5c6Sy-3x29Pn7pZ29akpYwLOMgjuJCoNSItaIe1mQSWM&referral\\_id=032c0c58-c7d8-4ca8-a181-4d44d1b3b971](https://www.spotfund.com/story/5700aa0f-3368-4593-92ac-1cbcad6fa551?created=true&fbclid=IwAR22RY6XyC06K4w5c6Sy-3x29Pn7pZ29akpYwLOMgjuJCoNSItaIe1mQSWM&referral_id=032c0c58-c7d8-4ca8-a181-4d44d1b3b971)

# HUMAN RELATIONS DAY



When you support Human Relations Day, your gift builds community leadership and resources. For example in Chicago, churches are in partnership to engage in community based alternatives to juvenile incarceration. In the Philippines, community organizations are strengthening family resiliency to address substance abuse, particularly with those who are living in the Manila North Cemetery. And in West Congo, United Methodist Churches are working with ecumenical partners to provide pastoral support and advocacy for children and youth who are in prison.

These are the words of some of the leaders who have received funding for community ministries through the Human Relations Day offering:

**“In this multi-Asian, multiethnic, multigenerational church, I’ve lost count of the number of times people have said they were drawn to Buena Vista for two primary reasons: 1. The congregation’s tremendous hospitality and openness; and 2. Its social activism, born out of firm values as the body of Christ. This congregation’s slogan is, ‘Building Beloved Community.’ They take it to heart, and they do it very well.”**

— LYNETTE LEE, CHAIR, BUENA VISTA COMMUNITY INSTITUTE, ALAMEDA, CALIFORNIA

**“The Beacon Center is a tool to build consciousness of the need to serve and walk with people whom Howard Thurman would call the disinherited, the people who the church turns its back on, the people of who Jesus ministered to... creating wholeness, ministering to those in the community physically, mentally, emotionally, relationally, economically—holistically.”**

— THE REV. JOSEPH DANIELS, EMORY FELLOWSHIP UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, WASHINGTON, D.C.

**“Motor sports is a tool that meets all the STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) requirements ... This program teaches youth not only to set goals, but (also to) map out the course to achieve that goal. During field trips, they hear success stories in different careers and see firsthand what that looks like.”**

— JAMES HARPER, GRACE COMMUNITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH RESOURCE AND EMPOWERMENT CENTER INC., CHESTER, PENNSYLVANIA



Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

**The people of The United Methodist Church®**

# HUMAN RELATIONS DAY



## PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY!

One of six churchwide Special Sundays with offerings of The United Methodist Church, Human Relations Day give us an opportunity to make an impact in communities where people struggle because they don't have the tools or resources to reach their God-given potential.

During the challenges of the past year, we have seen how systemic inequality affects the most vulnerable people. When neighbors experience poverty and live in communities that have less access to community resources, as a denomination, we can do so much more together than we could ever do on our own.

Our gifts are part of building beloved community through faith-based volunteer programs, community developers and programs that work with at-risk teens. As society begins to recover from this health and financial crisis, these programs are vital in strengthening communities that are most impacted.

Please write your check to your local church with "HRD" written on the memo line and place it in the offering basket. To give online or set up monthly giving, go to [UMC.org/SSGive](https://www.UMC.org/SSGive).



Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

**The people of The United Methodist Church®**