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"Landscape with Snow" by Vincent Van Gogh

Worship Aid ~ Ordinary Time I ~ Winter

**Liturgy honoring the Rev Dr Martin Luther King Jr
January 18, 2026 at 4PM**

Welcome and Announcements

GONG

Good evening. Whether you are joining us online or in person, welcome to Mary Magdalene the Apostle Catholic Community based in San Diego, CA, on the unceded territories of the many tribes and bands of the Kumeyaay nation, our neighbors. Tonight, in our liturgy, we remember life of Reverend Doctor Martin Luther King, Jr and honor his legacy.

My name is... one of your lectors this evening. Our other lector is... Jane Via is our in-person presider. Nancy Corran is our online presider. Armani Branch, 17 year old from San Diego High School, is our guest speaker. I invite Jane forward to welcome and introduce her....

Ms. Armani Branch is a 17-year old San Diegan. She is a senior at Otay Ranch High School in Chula Vista. She plans to attend college and study psychology and hopes to become a therapist. She has 2 pets, a rabbit named Ophelia and a pigeon named Baily. We are grateful for her presence here this morning as she shares what Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King means to her. Please join me in welcoming her to MMACC today.

We'd like to welcome any visitors with us today. For those on Zoom, please feel free to introduce yourselves on chat. For those visitors in person, if you feel comfortable, we invite you to stand and introduce yourselves and tell us where you are from. Know that wherever you are and whoever you are, you are welcome here, just as you are. We are glad you are joining us.

[Pause for introductions] If in-person visitors are present, please read the following paragraph:

Our communal spoken responses are in the Assembly Worship Aid. The songs are on the white song sheet inserted in the Worship Aid.

For those of you joining us online, the worship aid is available on our website and is posted in the chat. You may wish to have bread and wine or something similar with you to share in our communion. After our liturgy concludes, we invite our online participants to stay online for some social time.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The All-Peoples Breakfast in Balboa Park is on Martin Luther King Jr Day, tomorrow, January 19th. MMACC has sponsored a table. Please contact Becky Wilder if you'd like to attend.
- We will hold a celebration of Life for Rod Stephens, co-founder of MMACC and beloved friend to many of us, on Thursday, January 29 at 1pm here at GLC. The service will be hybrid.
- February 6th is the first Friday of February when we will again pray the Contemporary Rosary (9:30am to 10:00am). The link will be sent out the day before. All are welcome.
- Please see our bulletin for other community happenings and information.
- General donations to MMACC are appreciated. In-person donations can be placed in the basket on the welcome table. Online donations can be made through our website.
- Please take a prayerful moment as we prepare for liturgy.

GONG

INTRODUCTORY RITES

Opening Song – "Every Praise"

Hezekiah Walker

Every praise is to our God. Every word of worship, with one accord.
Every praise, every praise is to our God. Sing hallelujah to our God.
Glory hallelujah is due our God. Every praise, every praise is to our God.

Every praise is to our God. Every word of worship, with one accord.
Every praise, every praise is to our God. Sing hallelujah to our God.
Glory hallelujah is due our God. Every praise, every praise is to our God.

Bridge:

***God, our comfort, God our Healer, God, creator, Yes, you are, yes, you are.
God, our comfort, God our Healer,. God, creator, Yes, You are, yes, You are.***

Every praise is to our God. Every word of worship, with one accord.
Every praise, every praise, every praise, every praise, every praise is to our God.

Opening Rite

We begin our liturgy with the sign of our faith:

*In the name of God who is Beloved Community, Jesus who created Beloved Community, and the Holy Spirit who inspires Beloved Community, we pray.... **Amen.***

May the grace of Jesus the Christ, the love of God, and the peace of the Holy Spirit be with you.
And also with you.

Knowing God's Loving-Kindness

We pause for a moment to consider times when we abandoned hope of beloved community.

Holy Love, Holy Wisdom, Holy Spirit,
When we do not pause to contemplate You in creation...
Forgive us. Help us to breathe.

When we do not seek Sophia-Wisdom to guide our ways...
Forgive us. Help us to listen.

When we do not speak out and take just action on behalf of the silenced...
Forgive us. Help us to embody You in the world.

***ALL: Holy One, forgive us when we do not honor You, Your Creation, and Your people.
Gift us with awesome wonder, holy curiosity, and courage, we pray, Amen.***

Opening Prayer

Holy One, Last week we remembered Jesus' baptism. Tonight, we remember Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s baptism by fire into the struggle for equality, justice, and dignity for African Americans and all treated with less than human dignity. We give thanks that Jesus' baptism, and Dr. King's struggle inspired many other movements to relieve the plight of the oppressed in society. Inspire us to help bring their visions to fulfillment. We pray...Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading

Daniel 3:1a, 4-6, 8-10a, 12-13a, 15b, 16-20, 24, 91-93, 97

A Reading from the Book Daniel

While the Judeans were in exile in Babylon, Nebuchadnezzar, ruler of Babylon, had a golden statue made. A royal herald loudly proclaimed: "Nations and peoples of every language, when you hear the sound of the horn, pipe, zither, dulcimer, harp, double-flute, and all the other musical instruments, you must fall down and worship the golden statue which Nebuchadnezzar, your ruler, has set up."

Some nobles of land came forward to denounce the Judeans:

"O King, live forever! Your Majesty has issued a decree... However, there are some Judeans whom you have set as administrators over the province of Babylon—Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego—who pay no attention to you. They neither serve your gods nor worship the golden statue you have set up."

Livid with rage, Nebuchadnezzar summoned Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego and said to them, "If you don't worship my gods, you will be thrown immediately into a blazing furnace."

Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego replied, "We don't need to defend ourselves before you in this matter. If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God whom we serve is able to deliver us from it; but even if we are not delivered from the fire, we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up."

Furious, Nebuchadnezzar ordered the furnace to be heated 7 times stronger than usual. Strong warriors bound and cast them into the white-hot furnace.

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego walked about in the flames, singing to God and blessing the Holy Name.

Startled, Nebuchadnezzar rose in haste, asking his counselors, "Did we not cast three men bound into the fire?" "We certainly did," they answered. "But," he replied, "I see four figures in the fire, unbound and unhurt, walking around. The fourth looks like a god." Nebuchadnezzar

approached the furnace of blazing fire and called: "Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out." Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego came out of the fire.

Then Nebuchadnezzar promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the province of Babylon.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 40:2-4, 9-10, 11+12b

The Psalm response is: *"The time is always right to do what is right."*

R: "The time is always right to do what is right."

I waited patiently for You, God.

You turned and heard my cry.

You pulled me up out of the pit,
out of the miry clay.

You steadied my steps.

You put a new song on my lips! A hymn of praise!

Many shall look on in fear and awesome wonder!

Many shall trust in God, - in God's Holy Name!

R: "The time is always right to do what is right."

Blessed are those whose security is in God,
who do not stray after falsehoods.

I delight to do Your heart's desire, my God!

Your Law of Love is in my inner being.

I sing of Your goodness and justice

in front of a great assembly, even before hostile witnesses.

See! I do not restrain my lips!

R: "The time is always right to do what is right."

You know I do not keep Your divine justice secret,
hiding it in my heart.

I speak out loud, proclaiming Your faithfulness,

Your compassion, and Your liberation.

May Your compassion and faithfulness continually protect me.

R: "The time is always right to do what is right."

Second Reading

from a speech by Dr King

A READING FROM the Reverend Doctor, Martin Luther King Jr.

Excerpted from *Breaking the Silence*, given at Riverside Church, April 4, 1967, almost exactly one year before his assassination:

The words of the late John F. Kennedy come back to haunt us... *"Those who make peaceful revolution impossible will make violent revolution inevitable."*

I am convinced that if we are to get on the right side of the world revolution, we as a nation must undergo a radical revolution of values. We must rapidly begin the shift from a thing-oriented society to a person-oriented society...

A true revolution of values will soon cause us to question the fairness and justice of many of our past and present policies. On the one hand, we are called to play the Good Samaritan on life's roadside; but that will be only an initial act. One day we must come to see that the whole Jericho Road must be transformed so that all people¹ will not be constantly beaten and robbed as they make their journey on life's highway.

A true revolution of values will lay hand on the world order and say of war, "This way of settling differences is not just." This business of ...filling our nation's homes with orphans and widows, of injecting poisonous drugs of hate into the veins of peoples normally humane, of sending soldiers home from dark and bloody battlefields physically handicapped and psychologically scarred, cannot be reconciled with wisdom, justice, and love. A nation that continues year after year to spend more money on military defense than on programs of social uplift is approaching spiritual death.

A genuine revolution of values means...(e)very nation must now develop an overriding loyalty to humankind as a whole in order to preserve the best in their individual societies. This call for a worldwide fellowship that lifts neighborly concern beyond one's tribe, race, class, and nation is in reality a call for an all-embracing...and unconditional love for all humankind.

We are confronted with the fierce urgency of now. Now let us begin. Now let us rededicate ourselves to the long and bitter, but beautiful, struggle for a new world. This is the calling of the children of God, and our siblings wait eagerly for our response. Shall we say the odds are too great? Shall we tell them the struggle is too hard? ... Or will there be another message -- of longing, of hope, of solidarity with their yearnings, of commitment to their cause, whatever the cost? The choice is ours, and though we might prefer it otherwise, we must choose in this crucial moment of human history.

If we will but make the right choice, we will be able to speed up the day, all over America and all over the world, when *"justice will roll down like waters, and righteousness like a mighty stream."*

The Word of a Modern Prophet.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Mass of Renewal, C. Stephan

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia! Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

¹ The original text reads "men and women". The text is altered here for inclusivity.

Gospel*John 1:19-23*

God is with you. ***And also with you.***

A Reading from the Gospel attributed to John. ***Glory to you, O God.***

This is the testimony of John, the Baptist, when religious leaders in Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him, "Who are you?"

John acknowledged, "I am not the Messiah."

They continued with their questioning, "Who are you then? Are you Elijah?" John responded, "I am not."

"Are you the Prophet?" John answered, "No."

So, they said to him, "Who are you? Give us an answer to take back to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?"

John replied, *"I am the voice of one crying in the desert: Prepare the way for God!"*

The Gospel of God.

Praise to You, Jesus the Christ.

Homily*Armani Branch***Profession of Faith:**

from Martin Luther King's Nobel Peace Prize Acceptance Speech

In response to our readings and Armani's reflection, we offer these words of MLK Jr which call us to lives of justice work. Please stand as able, in body or spirit.

Presider: "I accept this award today with an abiding faith in America and an audacious faith in the future of humankind.

All: We shall overcome.

RIGHT SIDE

- I refuse to accept despair as the final response to the ambiguities of history.
- I refuse to accept the idea that the "is-ness" of our present nature makes us morally incapable of reaching up for the eternal "ought-ness" that forever confronts us.
- I refuse to accept the idea that humans are mere flotsam and jetsam in the river of life, unable to influence the unfolding events which surround us.
- I refuse to accept the view that we are so tragically bound to the starless midnight of racism and war that the bright daybreak of peace and kinship can never become a reality.
- I refuse to accept the cynical notion that nation after nation must spiral down a militaristic stairway into the hell of nuclear annihilation.

All: The truth shall make us free

ONLINE

- I believe that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word in reality. This is why right, temporarily defeated, is stronger than evil triumphant.
- I believe that even amid today's mortar bursts and whining bullets, there is still hope for a brighter tomorrow.
- I believe that wounded justice, lying prostrate on the blood-flowing streets of our nations, can be lifted from this dust of shame to reign supreme among our children.

All: We'll walk hand in hand

LEFT SIDE

- I have the audacity to believe that peoples everywhere can have three meals a day for their bodies, education and culture for their minds, and dignity, equality, and freedom for their spirits.
- I believe that what self-centered people have torn down, those who are other-centered can build up.
- I still believe that one day humankind will bow before the altars of God and be crowned triumphant over war and bloodshed, and nonviolent redemptive goodwill proclaimed the rule of the land.
- And the lion and the lamb shall lie down together, and every one shall sit under one's own vine and fig tree, and none shall be afraid."

All: We shall live in peace

Prayers of the Faithful 01-18-26

MLK Jr Observance & Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

"We are confronted with the fierce urgency of now. Now let us begin." With renewed commitment to our Baptismal call to build the Beloved Community, let us ask for all that we and all creation need.

Our response: We must choose in this crucial moment of human history.

All: We must choose in this crucial moment of human history.

That with Jesus and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. we speak and work as forceful witnesses to God's call for justice, peace, and freedom for all ... we pray ...

All: We must choose in this crucial moment of human history.

Scripture commands us to treat foreigners the same as citizens, and to love them equally, remembering that we, too, were once foreigners. Let us work to make our country welcoming to migrants, immigrants, asylum seekers, and refugees ... we pray ...

All: We must choose in this crucial moment of human history.

That we devote ourselves to building bridges across the divides of political perspectives and all other aspects of human diversity ... we pray ...

All: We must choose in this crucial moment of human history.

The Earth contains the dust of countless generations of our ancestors, as well as the blood of Jesus and of our contemporaries killed in war. May this God-beloved Earth become for them and for us the garden of resurrection and new life ... we pray ...

All: We must choose in this crucial moment of human history.

For those who use the mantle of religion to exclude, terrorize, and oppress, and for the times our reluctance to act has allowed those voice to prevail... we pray as Jesus said we should ...

All: We must choose in this crucial moment of human history.

[After all petitions have been spoken:]

We lift up all those living with illness, injury, loss, and suffering, those who have gone home in Holy Mystery, and all the prayers here today that have remained unspoken, deep in the silence of our hearts...

(Short pause)

For these intentions and for all the prayers remaining in the chat and in our community prayer book ... we pray ...

All: We must choose in this crucial moment of human history.

Closing Presider's Prayer: *Holy Mystery, hear these prayers offered from deep in our hearts inspired by Jesus and his prophet Dr. King's life and work. May the foundation for equality that Dr. King provided buoy us up, energize our spirits, and enable us to make our prayers a reality. We pray...*

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Offertory Song – "Let Justice Roll like a River"	<i>Haugen</i>
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Let justice roll like a river, and wash all oppression away.

Come, O God, and take us, move and shake us,

Come now, and make us anew, that we might live justly like you.

Take from me your holy feasts, all your offerings and your music.

Let justice flow like waters, and integrity like an ever-flowing stream. **(R)**

How long shall we wait, O God, for the day of your mercy to dawn,

The day we beat our swords into ploughs, when your peace reigns over the earth? **(R)**

You have been told the way of life, the way of justice and peace;

To act justly, to love gently, and walk humbly with God. **(R)**

Our Eucharist

Blessed are you, God of all creation. Through your goodness we have this bread to offer, which Earth has given and human hands have made. It will become for us the bread of life. ***Blessed be God forever.***

Blessed are you, God of all creation. Through your goodness we have this wine to offer, fruit of the vine and work of human hands. It will be our spiritual drink. ***Blessed be God forever.***

Friends, pray that sharing this bread and wine will awaken in us a passion for equity and generosity of spirit, that all may be brought to the table of abundance. ***Transform us to be Your loving and courageous prophets.***

Prayer with our Gifts

Holy Love, Like Jesus, Your servant Dr. King was faithful to the Gospel. Like Jesus, integrity cost him his life. Both understood they might be killed; yet both gave themselves willingly to Your work. The bread and wine we offer this night, we offer in memory of Jesus, Dr. King and all the martyrs of our faith. We pray. Amen.

Eucharistic Prayer*

God dwells in you. ***And also in you.***

Come to the table with thankful hearts!

We open our hearts to God and one another.

Presider: Wise and faithful Indwelling Spirit, we thank and praise you! You birthed the Cosmos in wisdom and love that life might emerge and thrive.

Voice 1 (online)

We witness around us Your creative power in the unfolding story of the universe. We, Your creatures, often deviate from Wisdom, hindering Your evolutionary and revolutionary presence in our midst.

Voice 2 (online)

You sent Jesus, Your Messiah, to live among us as friend, prophet, and liberator. In Jesus, You reveal humanity come of age; divinity-in-humanity. Through Jesus, You extend the invitation to wholeness.

Voice 3

Indwelling Spirit, You companion us on the journey, calling us as a people of faith to embrace the cosmos and our world with new vision. In union with all throughout time who have lifted their voices in joy, we, too, acclaim our song of praise:

Sanctus [Sung]*Mass of Renewal, C. Stephan*

***Holy, holy, holy, O God of hosts, Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest. Blessed are all who come in Your Name, Holy God.
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.***

(Please extend your hand, palm up, toward the bread and wine.)

Presider:

We invoke Your Spirit upon these gifts of grain and vine, that they may become the body and blood of Jesus in us, to nurture in us the discerning gifts of wisdom, life, and truth.

ALL: The night before Jesus died, he gathered around the table of shared wisdom with his disciples. Jesus took bread; blessed You, God of all good gifts; broke the bread and gave it to the disciples, saying: Take this all of you and eat. This is my body which is for you.

[Pause]

After the meal, Jesus took a cup, gave thanks, and shared the cup with his friends, saying: Take this all of you and drink. This is the cup of my life-blood, the cup of love, a sign of the new and everlasting covenant. In prophetic solidarity, it is poured out for you and for all. Sustain one another in the power of sacred memory.

Presider:

Let us proclaim the mystery of our faith *(sung)*: *Mass of Renewal, Stephan*
***We proclaim Your death O Jesus, and profess Your resurrection,
until You come again.***

Voice 4: As we celebrate this sacred meal, we remember the blessings of ages past, and we look forward in hope, knowing that You, Holy Love, will continue to empower us in our earthly mission.

Presider: In union with all peoples living and dead, we unite our longings and prayers, asking for wisdom and courage:

Voice 5: to discern Your Voice in the circumstances of our daily lives;

Voice 6: to act justly in confronting the desecration of Earth and its peoples, their pain and their suffering;

Voice 7: to take risks to be creative and proactive on behalf of those who are poor and marginalized;

Voice 8: and to love all people, beyond all our labels, with generosity of heart.

Presider: As our world unfolds amid pain and beauty, inspire us to attend to new things Sophia Spirit makes possible. Remind us that we are co-creators in the wise and wonderful work of creation, and our future.

Through God, - Loving Creator

Through Christ, - Liberator,

Through Sophia, - Enlivening Spirit,

we give thanks and praise, now and always. Amen.

The Great Amen*Mass of Renewal, C. Stephan****A-a-men, a-a-men, a-men!*****COMMUNION RITE****The Prayer of Jesus***Fresen/Willman/Klotz, adapted*

The prayer often called the "Our Father" has been translated and rendered in many ways over the last 2,000 years. Feel free to pray using the language and words most comfortable to you. We offer this contemporary recited version.

***Birther of the Cosmos, you breathe life into us.
May your Wisdom guide us and all creation.
May your love be acknowledged
in its home in each human heart,
as it is at home throughout the cosmos.
Grant us today both bread and insight
that we may become bread for others.
Loose the cords of wrongs that bind us.
In this freedom, help us loose the cords we bind round others.
Don't let surface things delude us, but free us from clouded vision,
from all that holds us back from loving.
For in you is born the astonishing fire that gives life to all
and the song that beautifies all, here, now and always, Amen.***

Sign of Peace

May the peace of Christ be with you. ***And also with you.***
Let us offer one another, and the whole world, God's peace.

Lamb of God*Mass of Renewal, C. Stephan*

***Jesus Christ, you call us to the gospel of hope, O Jesus, O Jesus, the Christ.
Jesus Christ, you call us to the gospel of love, O Jesus, O Jesus, the Christ.
Jesus Christ, you call us to the gospel of peace, grant us, grant us peace.***

In and through the Spirit, we are God's hands and heart in the world.
We are happy and blessed to share this sacred work.

*We believe that this is God's table, not ours; all are truly welcome and invited to receive the gluten free eucharistic bread, and consecrated red wine or white grape juice. May all who share this communion be united in the Body of Christ that knows no bounds. **Amen!***

Communion Song – "For Just One Day, One Just Day"

Beckham

For just one day may we have peace? May anger sleep, may fighting cease? May those in bondage know release, for just one day, one just day?

One just day: A day of rest to let the whole world catch its breath To search our souls each in our own way, for just one day, one just day.

For just one day, no weapon used, no one coerced, no one abused,
No one by hate or anger bruised for just one day, one just day.

One just day: No anguished tears, a pause from pain, a rest from fears, No hand or voice in anger raised, for just one day, one just day.

For just one day, no stubborn pride; All wounded honor set aside,
No one pursued or forced to hide for just one day, one just day.

For just one day, let no one cheat, no theft, no guile, no mean deceit;
A peaceful trust for all who meet, for just one day, one just day.

***One just day: A day of rest to let the whole world catch its breath,
to search our souls each in our own way, for just one day, one just day.***

***One just day, no spin, no skew, when every word we hear is true.
And if somehow we see this through, for just one day, one just day;
One Just Day....can we do two?***

Prayer After Communion

Holy One, as Jesus and Your prophet, the Rev Dr Martin Luther King taught...Let us go now and overcome. Let us overcome racial hatred with love and truth. Let us overcome war, poverty, hunger, and suffering throughout our urban streets and lands abroad, by sharing the love of Jesus the Christ with our neighbors. For what do You require of us, but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with You, O God? We pray...Amen.

CONCLUDING RITES

Closing Blessing

*Bless us with courage to face the history of slavery and the history of atrocities against the enslaved and their descendants. Let the church say: **Amen.***

*Bless us with courage to examine our institutional structures and systems to identify any implicit racism. Let the church say: **Amen.***

*Bless us with courage to recognize how those of us deemed white have benefitted directly and indirectly from legal and institutional racism. Let the church say: **Amen***

*Bless us with courage to change our structures, even if it means some of us benefit less, so that black Americans might benefit more. Let the church say: **Amen.***

Sending Forth

This mass is ended. Ordinary Time continues.

Thanks be to God!

Closing Song - "Lift Every Voice and Sing"

Johnson

Lift ev'ry voice and sing, till earth and heaven ring,
Ring with the harmonies of liberty;
Let our rejoicing rise high as the list'ning skies,
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.

Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
Let us march on till victory is won.

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,
Thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;
Thou who has by thy might, led us into the light,
Keep us forever in the path, we pray.

Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met thee,
Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, we forget thee;
Shadowed beneath thy hand, may we forever stand,
True to our God, true to our native land.

We are grateful to have shared in worship today!

*At Mary Magdalene Apostle Catholic Community, we have embraced the dream of a transformed Roman Catholic Church. We seek to support a full-time paid pastor or equivalent and a variety of social justice activities, giving a percentage of our Sunday offering back to the community
To support our community, please visit <http://www.mmacc.org/donate>*

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**The Eucharistic Prayers (EP), "Wisdom" and "Calling Forth the Adult" were composed by Diarmuid O'Murchu. The two EPs were adapted by the MMACC Liturgy Committee for use in this worship aid.*