

We live in a moment when millions desperately need a government and a society with a heart. Millions of Americans need health care and living wages and protection from xenophobia, homophobia, systemic racism, religious bigotry, immigration resentment, and climate destruction. This moment we're in is about whether a government of the people and by the people will, in fact, serve the people. It is about whether we as a people can reconstruct our democracy... Our deepest values are not Republican or Democrat. They are not left or right. They are moral issues.
The Rev. Dr. William Barber II, from a sermon, Howard University, Washington, D.C., 21st c.

God wills, comprehensively, our well-being--not just my well-being as an individual but the well-being of all of us and of the whole of creation. In short, God wills our salvation, our healing, here on earth. The Christian life is about participating in the salvation of God.
Marcus Borg, American theologian and author, 21st c.

Rainbows introduce us to reflections of different beautiful possibilities so we never forget that pain and grief are not the final options in life. *Aberjhani, American historian, editor and poet, 21st c.*
 It's good to do uncomfortable things. It's weight training for life.... Faith includes noticing the mess, the emptiness and discomfort, and letting it be there until some light returns.
Anne Lamott, 21st c.

Prayer Candles: Is there a person or relationship that needs a prayer?

Please come forward and light an individual prayer candle before our worship begins.

Greeting One Another in Peace and Friendship Welcome and Announcements

The Prelude *A Quiet Place* Rasley
 Dr. Laura Artesani, *Director*

The Centering Silence

The Introit *Stay With Me* Jacques Berthier, Taize Community
 Senior Choir; Molly Webster, *Director*

* **The Gathering Hymn** *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah* # 622

* **The Call to Worship**

L: Welcome, travelers, to the journey of faith.

P: The journey of faith is the route that we choose through life.

*L: So come, let us continue the quest,
 acting out our faith by living life to the fullest.*

P: We will let our spirits soar like eagles.

*L: Taking a deep breath, we will stretch ourselves to the limit and be
 ready to move onwards, ready to move forwards,*

**P: and ready to drink in the world's shapes and colors, to absorb the
 world's light and texture, to inhale the world's fragrance, to dance to
 the world's music. Let this be the way we worship God on the
 journey of life.**

The Gathering Prayer *S. Sledge*

**God, we are beginning a journey with you to the cross. The word is almost
 too big. We can't get our arms around it. Its meaning staggers us. But we
 hear you calling. We see you motioning us to follow, and we want to fall in
 step beside you.**

**When we are exhausted, raise us to walk again. When we stumble, help us
 up. When we want to turn back, keep encouraging us.**

**Grant us patience to smooth the way for the coming of your reign. Grant us
 hope that we may not be weary in working for your peace for all people.**

**May we take seriously the meaning of your cross, as we take up ours,
 standing beside each other, daring one another to take the risks you ask --
 so that together we can live out your mission in the world. Amen.**

The Anthem *Surely He Hath Borne Our Grievs* Antoni Lotti (1667-1740)
 Senior Choir; Molly Webster, *Director*

A Time for the Child in Each of Us

Sing Our Children to Sunday School (*seated*) *Go Now In Peace* # 437 (*twice*)

Go now in peace, go now in peace, may the love of God surround you
 everywhere, everywhere you may go.

The Prayer Hymn (*seated*) *Take Time to Be Holy* # 572

The Silent Prayer and The Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer (*unison*) *P.J. Palmer, Center for Courage & Renewal*

Heavenly Father, heavenly Mother, Holy and blessed is your true name.

We pray for your reign of peace to come. We pray that your good will be done.

Let heaven and earth become one.

Give us this day the bread we need. Give it to those who have none.

Let forgiveness flow like a river among us, from each one to each one.

Lead us to holy innocence beyond the evil of our days.

Come swiftly Mother, Father, come.

For yours are the power and the glory and the mercy.

Forever your name is All in One. Amen.

The Congregational Response *O Lord, hear my prayer* Taize Community

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord hear my prayer. When I call answer me.

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer. Come and listen to me.

The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise: All my hope comes from God.

The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise: God, the well-spring of life.

The Offering Prayer of Dedication (*unison*)

**God, whose giving knows no ending, transform our love into thought,
 our thought into concern, our concern into action, and thus make our
 lives a daily witness to your love. As we present these gifts to you,
 create in us the joy of generous hearts. Amen.**

The Offering and The Offertory *Sicilienne* Alford

Dr. Laura Artesani, *organ*

715

* **The Doxology**

**All praise and thanks to God our Father and our Mother,
 to Christ and to the One who binds us to each other,
 the one eternal God, whom earth and heaven adore,
 for thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.**

The Gospel Lesson *Mark 1:9-15* Mary Lee McIntosh, *Liturgist*

The Sermon *From Now On* Reverend Grenfell

* **The Parting Hymn** *The Sun Is on the Sea and Shore* # 3

* **The Benediction**

* **The Choral Benediction** *Siyahamba, We Are Walking* # 442

We are walking in the light of God, we are walking in the light of God.

We are walking in the light of God, we are walking in the light of God.

We are walking, walking, we are walking, walking,

We are walking in the light of God.

We are walking, walking, we are walking, walking,

We are walking in the light of God.

* **The Postlude** *Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring* J.S. Bach

Dr. Laura Artesani, *organ*

Today's Plate Offering

The Greater Bangor Area Branch NAACP

The NAACP is the co-sponsor of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Breakfast Celebration at the University of Maine. The Bangor Branch meets on a regular basis and hosts special programs on issues of concern to the civil rights community. It offers confidential support to individuals who face acts of racial discrimination. The Branch has no paid staff and is run entirely by volunteers. It is the only Branch of the NAACP in the entire northern half of Maine.

or

Southern Poverty Law Center

The SPLC was founded in 1971 to ensure that the promise of the civil rights movement became a reality for all. This organization has a three-pronged strategy to battle racial and social injustice:

- **Fighting hate:** They monitor hate groups and other extremists throughout the U.S. and expose their activities to law enforcement agencies, the media and the public.
- **Teaching tolerance:** Their Teaching Tolerance project combats prejudice among our nation's youth while promoting equality, inclusiveness and equitable learning environments in the classroom. All materials are free of charge to educators.
- **Seeking justice:** They stand up for the powerless, the exploited and other victims of discrimination and hate.

Please make checks payable to:
 The Church of Universal Fellowship.

Memo your check or mark your envelope:
Pledge, NAACP or SPLC

Please put your names on envelopes!

(*unmarked gifts will support
 Open Doors*)