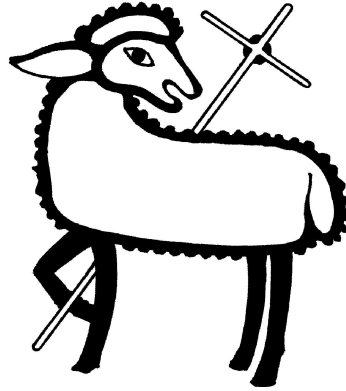


Second Sunday after Epiphany  
A Service for Rev. Dr. Martin  
Luther King Jr. Day  
January 18, 2026  
10:30 AM



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University Lutheran Church of Hope is a welcoming, Christian community of faith centered on God's grace and called to demonstrate God's love for the world. University Lutheran Church of Hope is a Reconciling in Christ congregation with a commitment to racial equity.

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**Welcome. Peace be with you.**

**We continue our holy experiment.** We're worshipping together in-person and virtually on YouTube. Welcome to all!

**For those worshipping in-person, please remember:**

- ❖ **To support the health and wellness of all those among us**, feel welcome to use masks and hand sanitizer, stay current with your vaccinations, and stay home as needed if you are unwell.
- ❖ **We honor one another's boundaries** by asking permission to be in close proximity, and finding alternate ways to greet one another and share the peace (a deep bow, the peace sign, an air hug, etc.). Our risk levels and comfort differ.
- ❖ **In our service today, we will share Holy Communion.** Ushers will direct you.
- ❖ **If you are new to the community** and wish to speak with a Pastor or be included in our communication and activities, fill out the blue slip in the pew rack and give it to an usher. We'll follow up. It's also just fine to be anonymous. To get more involved, check out our website: <http://www.ulch.org/> To receive the weekly enews, the Thursday Epistle, contact our church administrator at [ulch@ulch.org](mailto:ulch@ulch.org).
- ❖ **Children are welcome in worship.** Kids, grab your SPARK Story Bibles. Craft tables are available for families. Note: The nursery is not staffed, but is available for your use. The nursery is on the upper level of the education wing, most easily reached from the doors nearest the baptismal font.
- ❖ **After worship, enjoy the time to linger for conversation** in the lounge, courtyard and patio.

**Land Acknowledgment**

*This Land Acknowledgment, and our response, are both a work in progress. We're actively engaged in a process to move beyond a simple acknowledgment, and toward a more active commitment. Watch for more opportunities for our community.*

We gather for worship on the land of our Creator. Many of us and our church building dwell in the traditional home of the Dakota people, and a land over which the Anishinaabeg people and others also moved. They gathered and ate food, rested, died and gave birth, and prayed here, and many still do.

# GATHERING

+ Indicates the assembly stand as able. Assembly parts are marked in **bold**.

**ELW** refers to the red hymnal, *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*. **ACS** refers to *All Creation Sings*, an *ELW* supplement.

## Prelude

A Little More Faith in Jesus     Spiritual, arr. John W. Work (1962)

## Welcome

+ **Confession and Forgiveness** with excerpts from *Letter from Birmingham Jail*

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

On this day, we confess we have not always done our part to ensure that all of your children are treated with equity and fairness.

**Lord, have mercy upon us.**

We confess that we dwell in moderation.

**Make us more devoted to justice than order.**

We confess that we prefer negative peace and the absence of tension.

**Make us pursue positive peace and the presence of justice.**

We confess that we strive to set a comfortable timetable for our siblings' liberation.

**Make us seize the fierce urgency of now, that all may live in freedom.**

We confess that our shallow understanding and lukewarm acceptance of our neighbors' calls for justice have fallen short of your commandment to love God and neighbor as ourselves.

**Let us arise in the power of the Holy Spirit, committed to nonviolent, direct action, alongside our siblings of color, for the sake of Christ. Amen.**

Beloveds, hear this good news! God, who is an extremist for love, forgives us all our sin.

Sent out to love our enemies, let us bless those who curse us, do good to those who hate us, and pray for those who spitefully use and persecute us.

In the name of the ☩ one God, triune and eternal, we say,

**Here I stand; I cannot do otherwise, so help me God. Amen!**

+ **Gathering Hymn**

Guide My Feet (*vss. 1-4*)

ACS 987, Spiritual

Leader All

1 Guide my feet  
2 Hold my hand  
3 Stand by me while I run this race.  
4 I'm your child  
5 Search my heart

Yes, my Lord!

Guide my feet  
Hold my hand  
Stand by me while I run this race.  
I'm your child  
Search my heart

Yes, my Lord!

Guide my feet  
Hold my hand  
Stand by me while I run this race,  
I'm your child  
Search my heart

for I don't want to run this race in vain.

## + Greeting

The grace of Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

## + Prayer of the Day

Holy God, our strength and our redeemer, **by your Spirit hold us in all times, that through your grace we may worship you, faithfully serve you, and joyfully be found by you. Let us follow in your pursuit of justice and peace for all people. Amen.**

# WORD

## Children's Message

### Reading - Isaiah 49:1-7

Listen to me, O coastlands;  
pay attention, you peoples from far away!  
The LORD called me before I was born;  
while I was in my mother's womb he named me.  
He made my mouth like a sharp sword;  
in the shadow of his hand he hid me;  
he made me a polished arrow;  
in his quiver he hid me away.  
And he said to me, "You are my servant,  
Israel, in whom I will be glorified."  
But I said, "I have labored in vain;  
I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity;  
yet surely my cause is with the LORD  
and my reward with my God."  
And now the LORD says,  
who formed me in the womb to be his servant,  
to bring Jacob back to him,  
and that Israel might be gathered to him,  
for I am honored in the sight of the LORD,  
and my God has become my strength—  
he says,  
"It is too light a thing that you should be my servant  
to raise up the tribes of Jacob  
and to restore the survivors of Israel;  
I will give you as a light to the nations,  
that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth."  
Thus says the LORD,  
the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One,

Escúchenme, costas lejanas,  
oigan esto, naciones distantes:  
El SEÑOR me llamó antes de que yo naciera,  
en el vientre de mi madre pronunció mi nombre.  
Hizo de mi boca una espada afilada  
y me escondió en la sombra de su mano;  
me convirtió en una flecha pulida  
y me escondió en su aljaba.  
Me dijo: «Israel, tú eres mi siervo;  
en ti seré glorificado».  
Y respondí: «En vano he trabajado;  
he gastado mis fuerzas sin provecho alguno.  
Pero mi justicia está en manos del SEÑOR;  
mi recompensa está con mi Dios».  
Y ahora dice el SEÑOR,  
que desde el seno materno me formó para que fuera yo  
su siervo, para hacer que Jacob se vuelva a él,  
que Israel se reúna a su alrededor; porque a los ojos del  
SEÑOR soy digno de honra y mi Dios ha sido mi fortaleza:  
«No es gran cosa que seas mi siervo,  
ni que restaures a las tribus de Jacob,  
ni que hagas volver a los de Israel, a quienes he preservado.  
Yo te pongo ahora como luz para las naciones,  
a fin de que lleves mi salvación hasta los confines de la  
tierra».  
Así dice el SEÑOR,  
el Redentor y Santo de Israel,

to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations,  
the slave of rulers,  
“Kings shall see and stand up;  
princes, and they shall prostrate themselves,  
because of the LORD, who is faithful,  
the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you.”

Word of God. Word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

al despreciado y aborrecido por las naciones,  
al siervo de los gobernantes:  
«Los reyes te verán y se pondrán de pie,  
los príncipes te verán y se postrarán,  
por causa del SEÑOR, el Santo de Israel,  
que es fiel y te ha escogido».

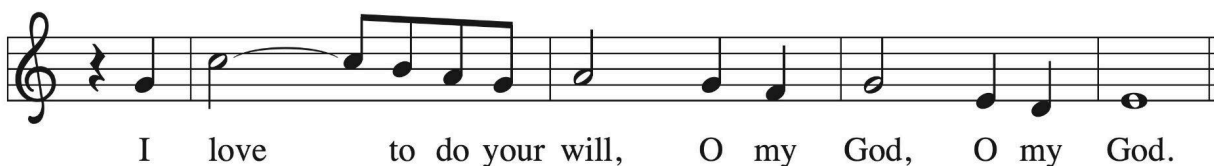
Palabra de Dios, palabra de vida.

**Demos gracias a Dios.**

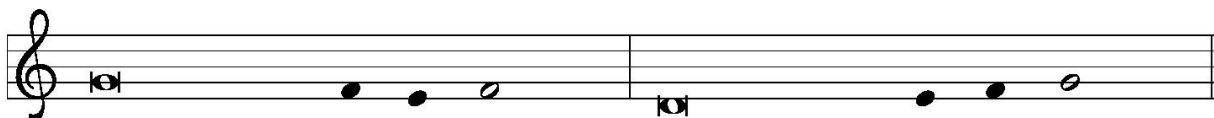
## Psalm 40:1-11

Refrain Music: John Folkening

Refrain (*1st time choir sings, **all sing thereafter***)

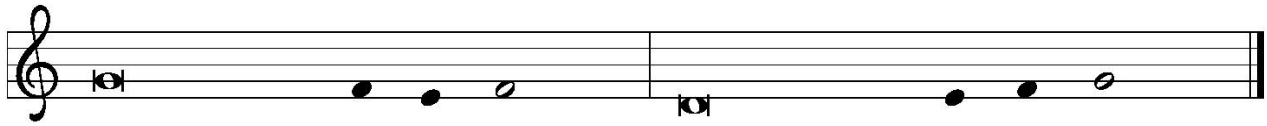


*Choir sings the odd verses, **all sing the Even verses***



<sup>1</sup> I waited patiently up-<sup>1</sup> on the LORD,  
who stooped to me and<sup>1</sup> heard my cry.  
<sup>2</sup> **The LORD lifted me out of the desolate pit, out of  
the<sup>1</sup> miry clay,  
and set my feet upon a high cliff, making my<sup>1</sup>  
footing sure.**  
<sup>3</sup> The LORD put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise  
<sup>1</sup> to our God;  
many shall see, and stand in awe, and put their trust<sup>1</sup>  
in the LORD.  
<sup>4</sup> **Happy are they who trust<sup>1</sup> in the LORD!  
They do not turn to enemies or to those who<sup>1</sup>  
follow lies. REFRAIN**  
<sup>5</sup> Great are the wonders you have done, O LORD my God!  
In your plans for us, none can be com-<sup>1</sup> pared with you!  
Oh, that I could make them known and tell them!  
But they are more than<sup>1</sup> I can count.  
<sup>6</sup> **Sacrifice and offering you do<sup>1</sup> not desire;  
you have opened my ears: burnt-offering and  
sin-offering you have<sup>1</sup> not required. REFRAIN**

Puse en el SEÑOR toda mi esperanza;  
él se inclinó hacia mí y escuchó mi clamor.  
<sup>2</sup> **Me sacó de la fosa fatal,  
del lodo y del pantano;  
puso mis pies sobre una roca,  
y me plantó en terreno firme.**  
<sup>3</sup> Puso en mis labios un cántico nuevo,  
un himno de alabanza a nuestro Dios.  
Al ver esto, muchos tuvieron miedo  
y pusieron su confianza en el SEÑOR.  
<sup>4</sup> **Dichoso quien pone su confianza en el SEÑOR  
y no recurre a los soberbios  
ni a los que se pierden tras la mentira.**  
<sup>5</sup> Muchas son, SEÑOR mi Dios,  
las maravillas que tú has hecho.  
No es posible enumerar tus planes en favor nuestro.  
Si quisiera anunciarlos y proclamarlos,  
serían más de lo que puedo contar.  
<sup>6</sup> **A ti no te complacen sacrificios ni ofrendas,  
pero has abierto mis oídos para oírte; tú no has**



<sup>7</sup> And so I said, “Here I<sup>1</sup> am; I come.

In the scroll of the book it is writ-<sup>1</sup>ten of me:

<sup>8</sup> **‘I love to do your will, <sup>1</sup>O my God;  
your law is <sup>1</sup>deep within me.’ ”**

<sup>9</sup> I proclaimed righteousness in the <sup>1</sup>great assembly;

I have not restrained my lips, O <sup>1</sup>Lord, you know.

<sup>10</sup> **I have not hidden your righteousness in my heart;  
I have spoken of your faithfulness and <sup>1</sup>your  
deliverance;**

**I have not concealed your steadfast love and truth  
from the <sup>1</sup>great assembly.**

<sup>11</sup> You are the Lord; do not withhold your compas-<sup>1</sup>sion  
from me;

may your steadfast love and your truth continually<sup>1</sup>  
keep me safe. **REFRAIN** (*below*)

**pedido holocaustos ni sacrificios por el pecado.**

<sup>7</sup> Por eso dije: «Aquí me tienes —como el libro dice de mí—.

<sup>8</sup> **Me agrada, Dios mío, hacer tu voluntad;  
tu Ley la llevo dentro de mí».**

<sup>9</sup> **En medio de la gran asamblea he proclamado tu  
justicia.**

**Tú bien sabes, Señor,  
que no he sellado mis labios.**

<sup>10</sup> **No escondo tu justicia en mi corazón,  
sino que doy a conocer tu fidelidad y tu salvación.  
No oculto en la gran asamblea tu gran amor y tu verdad.**

<sup>11</sup> No me niegues, Señor, tu misericordia;  
que siempre me protejan tu amor y tu verdad.



I love to do your will, O my God, O my God.

**+ Gospel Acclamation**

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah

ELW 172

**+ Gospel Reading - John 1:29-42**

The gospel according to John the first chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

John the Baptist saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, “Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, ‘After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.’ I myself did not know him, but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel.” And John testified, “I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’ And I myself have

Al día siguiente, Juan vio a Jesús que se acercaba a él y dijo: «¡Aquí tienen al Cordero de Dios, que quita el pecado del mundo! De este hablaba yo cuando dije: “Después de mí viene un hombre que es superior a mí, porque existía antes que yo”. Yo ni siquiera lo conocía, pero para que él se revelara al pueblo de Israel, vine bautizando con agua». Juan declaró: «Vi al Espíritu descender del cielo como una paloma y permanecer sobre él. Yo mismo no lo conocía, pero el que me envió a bautizar con agua me dijo: “Aquel sobre quien veas que el Espíritu desciende y permanece es el que bautiza con el Espíritu Santo”. Yo lo he visto y por eso testifico que este

seen and have testified that this is the Chosen One.” The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by he exclaimed, “Look, here is the Lamb of God!” The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, “What are you looking for?” They said to him, “Rabbi” (which translated means Teacher), “where are you staying?” He said to them, “Come and see.” They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o’clock in the afternoon. One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. He first found his brother Simon and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated Anointed). He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, “You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas” (which is translated Peter).

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon** - Pastor Maria Anderson-Lippert

**+ Hymn of the Day**

I Want Jesus to Walk With Me

ELW 325

**Prayers of the People**

*Following each petition: Merciful God, receive our prayer.*

**+ Sharing the Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

La paz de Cristo sea siempre con ustedes.

**And also with you.**

**Y también contigo.**

*All are invited to share the peace of Christ using these or similar words “Peace be with you” or “La paz del Señor.”*

## MEAL

**Offertory**

The Silent Stars Shine Down on Us

Thomas Keesecker

*Hope Choir*

*see pg. 11 at the back of the bulletin for the text of this anthem*

*Thank you for your continued generosity! Donations may be sent electronically or by mail, or placed in the offering plate in the center of our space as you come forward for Holy Communion. A QR code is available on the last page of the bulletin.*

**+ Offertory Prayer**

es el Hijo de Dios». Al día siguiente, Juan estaba de nuevo allí con dos de sus discípulos. Al ver a Jesús que pasaba por ahí, dijo: —¡Aquí tienen al Cordero de Dios! Cuando los dos discípulos lo oyeron decir esto, siguieron a Jesús. Jesús se volvió y al ver que lo seguían, les preguntó: —¿Qué buscan? —Rabí, ¿dónde te hospedas? (Rabí significa “Maestro”.) —Vengan a ver —contestó Jesús. Ellos fueron, pues, y vieron dónde se hospedaba. Ese mismo día se quedaron con él. Eran como las cuatro de la tarde. Andrés, hermano de Simón Pedro, era uno de los dos que, al oír a Juan, había seguido a Jesús. Andrés encontró primero a su hermano Simón y le dijo: —Hemos encontrado al Mesías —es decir, el Cristo. Luego lo llevó a Jesús, quien lo miró y dijo: —Tú eres Simón, hijo de Juan. Serás llamado Cefas —es decir, Pedro.

El Evangelio del Señor.

**Alabanza a ti, oh Cristo!**

God of majesty, no eye has seen, no ear has heard what you have prepared for those who love you, yet in this meal you reveal the wideness of your mercy. Use what we have gathered to feed us with the reign of God come near, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

### +The Great Thanksgiving

God be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to our God.**

Let us give thanks to our gracious God.

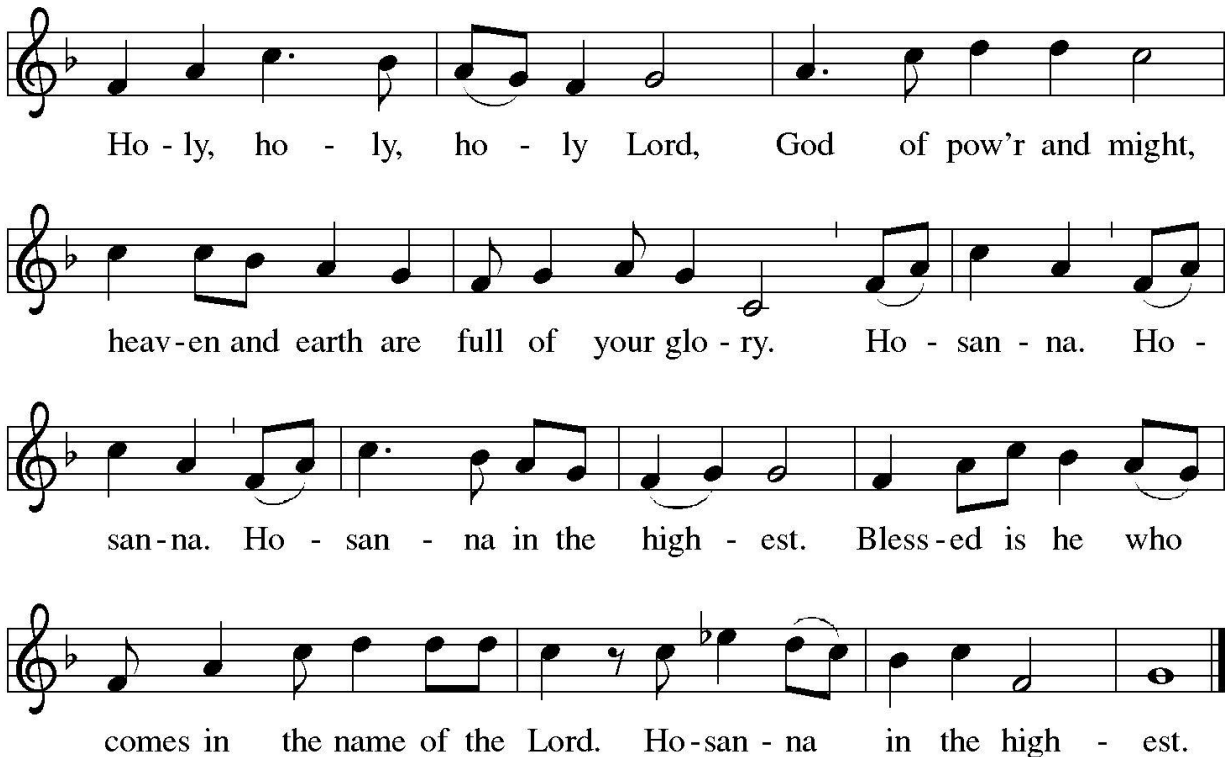
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed...join their unending hymn:

### + Sanctus

Holy, Holy, Holy

ELW communion setting 3



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
 heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -  
 san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who  
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

### + Eucharistic Prayer and Words of Institution

#### + The Lord's Prayer

Our Creator, Our Mother, Our Father in  
 heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom  
 come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.  
 Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our

Creador nuestro, Madre nuestra, Padre nuestro que  
 estás en el cielo, santificado sea tu nombre. Venga tu  
 reino. Hágase tu voluntad en la tierra como en el  
 cielo. Danos hoy nuestro pan de cada día. Perdona  
 nuestras ofensas como también nosotros perdonamos



sins as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us  
from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the  
glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

a los que nos ofenden. No nos dejes caer en tentación  
y libranos del mal. Porque tuyo es el reino, tuyo es el  
poder y tuya es la gloria, ahora y siempre. Amén.

## Holy Communion

*We believe that Jesus Christ is present in Holy Communion with gifts of forgiveness, life and salvation. All who hunger for the presence of Christ in their life are invited to partake. By our participation in this meal and blessing, we are strengthened in faith and in life. All are welcome to commune.*

### ***If you are at home and sitting with others...***

*When sharing the bread with someone, say to them: "This is the body of Christ, given for you." When sharing the wine or grape juice, say, "This is the blood of Christ, shed for you."*

### ***If you are at home on your own...***

*Hear the voice of the pastor naming these promises of grace and life for you. If you'd prefer a blessing, hear these promises: "You are a beloved child of God. May God strengthen you with grace through Christ for all we face today."*

### ***If you are worshiping in-person today...***

*We invite you to come forward to receive the elements and hear the words of promise, or to receive a blessing. Following the direction of the ushers, come forward: pick up a cup, gather around the table, receive the bread (gluten free is available), the servers will pour into your cup either the red wine or white grape juice, place used cups in the basket. Children of all ages are welcome to partake at Holy Communion.*

### ***If you seek healing prayers today...***

*A healing minister is available during Holy Communion this morning. If you'd like prayers for healing for yourself, for those you love, or for other situations, you are invited to come to one of the healing ministers. You can ask for specific prayers, or simply ask them to pray with you...and they will. During this time, you may also dip into the baptismal waters and remember the promises, and light candles for situations around the world and close to home.*

**Music During Communion** Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us With Your Love

ELW 708

Precious Lord, Take My Hand

ELW 773

Christ, Be Our Light

ELW 715

## **+ Table Blessing**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace.  
**Amen.**

## **+ Prayer after Communion**

Radiant God, **We have seen your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. In the sacrament of communion you have drawn us to your heart. Send us from this table with delight, that our lives may reflect the beauty of your love, and bear witness to all we have seen and heard, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## **Announcements**

## SENDING

### + Sending Hymn

Let Justice Flow Like Streams

ELW 717

### + Blessing with excerpts from *I Have Been to the Mountaintop*

May the ☩ triune God enable us to work tirelessly, make sacrifices, and never give up until all people are free. As we hear the words of God's prophet: Rise up with greater readiness. Stand with greater determination. Move on in these powerful days. And do God's will, trusting that together we will get to the promised land! And all God's people say, **Amen!**

### + Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve.  
**Thanks be to God!**

### Postlude

King of Kings

African-American Spiritual  
arr. By Ralph Simpson (2008)

#### Staff at University Lutheran Church of Hope

##### Lead Pastor

Rev. Amanda Simons (she/her)  
amandas@ulch.org

##### Pastor

Rev. Maria Anderson-Lippert (she/her)  
mariaa@ulch.org

##### Minister of Worship and Music

Paul Stever (he/him)  
pauls@ulch.org

##### Church Administrator

Nathan Obrestad (he/him)  
nathano@ulch.org

##### Financial Administrator

Catherine Menick (she/her)  
FinAdmin@ulch.org

##### Sunday Opener/Closer, Worship Tech

*Please share our open position*

##### Custodian

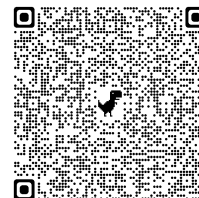
Geremew Beshah (he/him)

##### Lutheran Campus Pastor

Kate Reuer Welton (she/her)  
kate@umnlutheran.org

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#### University Lutheran Church of Hope

601 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE

Minneapolis, MN 55414-1437

612.331.5988 [www.ulch.org](http://www.ulch.org)

Office hours: 9am to 2pm weekdays

- 1     The silent stars shine down on us  
         with bright but sightless eye,  
         unmindful of our little earth,  
         of us who live and die.  
Are we but grains of stranded sand  
         beside a cosmic sea  
         that lie unvalued and unseen  
         in such immensity?**
- 2     Creator of all stars, you came  
         to grace our transient race.  
In Christ you spoke a Word that broke  
         the silences of space.  
Still through that Word you call our hearts  
         to know that we are known,  
         to trust we do not walk through time  
         unvalued and alone.**
- 3     We see the star the wise men saw  
         and hope again is stirred.  
We track the footprints left in time  
         by your incarnate Word.  
We see them climb a lonely hill  
         where Love is left to die —  
the Love that formed the farthest star  
         and hears the faintest cry.**
- 4     O Christ, the bright and morning Star  
         whose radiance does not fade,  
         whose glory filled the universe  
         before the planets played:  
come, heal our hearts of blinding doubt  
         till faith shall end in sight.  
Shine down upon our darkened earth  
         and conquer sin's long night.**

**Text by Herman G. Stuempfle, Jr (1923–2007)**

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### **Today's Worship Leaders**

Pastor Amanda Simons, Pastor Maria Anderson-Lippert (presiding ministers); Jan Sanden (assisting minister); Hope Choir, Paul Stever (musician); Marty Lewis-Hunstiger, Ruth Hedman, Jason Lukis, Mary Reimann-Perez (communion servers); Bill Sanden (lector); Elizabeth Fry (worship tech facilitator); Muffi Abrahamson (greeter); Kelleen Brooks, Scott Hvizdos, Ron Sorensen (ushers); Anja Lukis, Junia Lukis (acolytes); Kathy Kufus (worship prep); Bruce Eldevik, Rosalie Eldevik (communion clean-up); Donna Neste, Sara Tufvesson Doure (healing prayer)

### **Hope Choir and handbells upcoming**

Hope Choir rehearsals resumed on Wednesday, January 14 at 7-8:30pm. If you'd like to join us in 2026 maybe for a special project like Night Songs or other period of time, please reach out to Paul at [pauls@ulch.org](mailto:pauls@ulch.org). Handbells will also continue in late January, dates TBD, open to new ringers at any time. We have a group learning beginning techniques, as well as a more experienced group.

### **Night Songs: Sunday, February 15 at 7pm**

Save the date for another Night Songs performance with our own Hope Choir and other local choirs! Many things will be similar to past years, but last time this event was so popular that we weren't able to seat everyone who showed up. So this time around we are requiring people to reserve tickets online in advance, to help ensure there is a seat for each person who comes: <https://Nightsongs2026.eventbrite.com>

We also need volunteers to help the event run smoothly. If you will be coming and could arrive early or stay late to help with various tasks please talk with Jo Schroeder at the reception desk after worship today or message Paul Stever at [pauls@ulch.org](mailto:pauls@ulch.org).