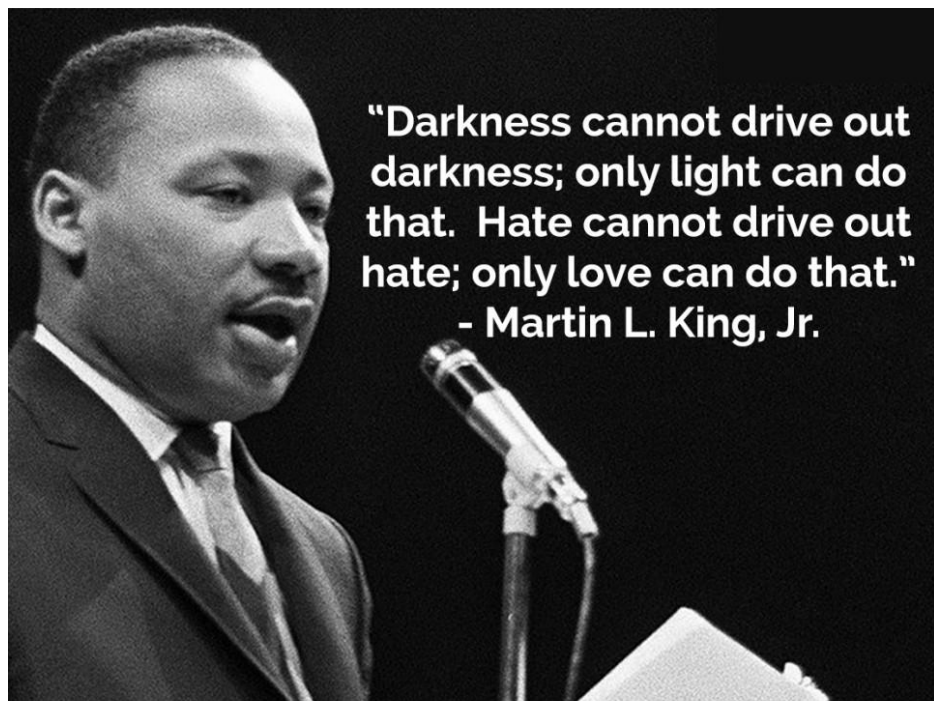


The First Congregational Church in Thetford, Vermont

*Built in 1787, this is the oldest meetinghouse in continuous service
in the state of Vermont. A member of the United Church of Christ*

A Sanctuary for Spiritual Nurture



**“Darkness cannot drive out
darkness; only light can do
that. Hate cannot drive out
hate; only love can do that.”
- Martin L. King, Jr.**

January 16, 2022

Rev. Robin Junker-Boyce, Pastor
Maureen Burford, Church Musician & Choir Director
www.thetfordhillchurch.org

Morning Worship

January 16, 2022

Second Sunday after Epiphany MLK Jr. Sunday

A Service of Silence, Song and Spoken Word

PH stands for Pilgrim Hymnal (red)

NCH stands for New Century Hymnal (black)

**All who are able, please stand.*

Silent Prayer

Prelude *Hear the Lambs A'Cryin* Spiritual

Jim Hughes

Greeting and Announcements

Introit *How Great Thou Art* Rev. Hine et al

Lloyd Gabourel, soloist

Call to Worship written by Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr

Eternal God, out of whose mind this
great cosmic universe came to be,
we bless You.

Help us to seek that which is high, noble and good.

Help us in the moment of difficult decision.

**Help us to work with renewed vigor
for a warless world**

a better distribution of wealth,
**and a brother/sisterhood that
transcends race or color.**

Eternal God, out of whose mind this
great cosmic universe came to be,
we bless You.

Early Years

Introduction

Stephanie MacPhail

“Growing up Negro”

John Green

Continuing Remarks

Pastor Robin

Prayer of Invocation

God of our weary years and God of our silent tears,
thou who has brought us thus far on the way,
we invite your presence into our midst
as we pay tribute the all who have labored for justice, equality and love.

We pray that in this moment you would strengthen us
to continue to fight for the fulfillment of the dream that the Rev. Dr. Martin
Luther King Jr. so eloquently laid out on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial.
Help us to labor so that every valley is exalted,
every hill and mountain made low,
the rough places are plain, and the crooked places made straight

so that the glory of the Lord is revealed,
and all flesh see it together.

Let your love guide us to see one another as fully human with diverse hues,
colors, ethnicities and cultures, and respect the content of their character.

Let your spirit strengthen us for the fight of today and tomorrow

until all God's children can say with full conviction,

"Free at last. Free at last. Thank God All-Mighty, I'm free at last." Amen.

Scripture Reading Exodus 6:1-11

Montgomery

Introduction Ray Chin

Montgomery Bus Boycott Speech John Green

Continuing Remarks Pastor Robin

Response NCH #570 vs. 1 *We Shall Overcome...some day*

Sit-Ins

Introduction Ken Gleason

Letter to Coretta John Green

Continuing Remarks Pastor Robin

Response NCH #570 vs. 2 *We'll Go Hand and Hand... some day*

Birmingham

Introduction Nancy Green

Letter from Birmingham Jail John Green

Continuing Remarks Pastor Robin

Response NCH #570 vs. 3 *We Are Not Afraid...today*

Joys and Concerns and Prayer Requests

Offertory NCH#553 *There is a Balm In Gilead* Nicky Corrao

***Doxology**

Prayer of Dedication

Washington

Introduction Mary Chin

Memphis Stephanie MacPhail

I've Been to the Mountaintop John Green

Continuing Remarks Pastor Robin

Response NCH #472 *Precious Lord, Take My Hand* Lloyd Gabourel, soloist

Excerpt "*I Have A Dream*"

Silence for Reflection

Response NCH #593 *Lift Every Voice and Sing*

JW and JR Johnson

Benediction

Lift Every Voice and Sing

Lift every voice and sing

Till earth and heaven ring

Ring with the harmonies of Liberty

Let our rejoicing rise

High as the listening 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

Stony the road we trod

Bitter the chastening rod

Felt in the days when hope unborn had died

Yet with a steady beat

Have not our weary feet

Come to the place for which our fathers sighed?

We have come over a way that with tears has been watered

We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered

Out from the gloomy past

Till now we stand at last

Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast

God of our weary years

God of our silent tears

Thou who has 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

Our native land

*Source: Hold Fast To The Dream A Presentation for Two Readers and Choir of the
Life and Words of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. by Stan G. Duncan*

Church Calendar

January 21: Soup sale in the Pie room

January 23: ONLINE ONLY service

January 30: Guest Preacher John Green; ONLINE ONLY service

Today's Announcements

- All services in January will be ONLINE ONLY
- The Church Window is our weekly electronic newsletter. If you would like to receive it, please email office@thetfordhillchurch.org, and we will add you to the list!
- **About our guest artist:** Lloyd Gabourel is well known in the Upper Valley, starting from the very beginning stages with companies such as Revels North, NCCT, and Parish Players. Lloyd has been entertaining audiences with his singing, dancing, and acting talents for over 40 years, in addition to working as a model and in television and radio. Lloyd had been active in the church as a Pastor and worship leader. He was co-founder and lead singer for the former Upper Valley Praise and Worship Team. Lloyd resides in Hanover with his wife Veneda.

A Word about our Liturgy

The First Congregational Church on Thetford Hill is a progressive church community that values words and silence.

About our words: *Our intention is to be inclusive and loving in our choices. As such, you may find some traditional wording of prayers, hymns, etc., adjusted to be more in line with our values. In general, we choose text that is non-paternalistic, non-violent and non-judgmental. At times and for some occasions, we may elect to use traditional wording. This is a journey in progress as we find our way with reinterpreting old text and customs to fit modern times and progressive values.*

About our silences: *This congregation has a history of valuing silence and meditation. Typically the silence following the prayer of confession will last a duration of two minutes, and the silence for reflection after the sermon for a duration of three minutes.*

We Shall Overcome

JUSTICE AND PEACE

570

United States traditional

John 8:31-32; Rom. 12:21; 2 Cor. 13:11

1 We shall o - ver - come,
2 We'll go hand in hand, we shall o - ver -
3 We are not a - fraid, we'll go hand in
4 Our God will see us through, our God will see us

come, we shall o - ver - come some day;
hand, we'll go hand in hand some day;
fraid, we are not a - fraid to - day;
through, our God will see us through some day;

(1-6) Oh, deep in my heart, I do be - lieve,

we shall o - ver - come some day.
we'll go hand in hand some day.
we are not a - fraid to - day.
our God will see us through some day.

5 The truth shall make us free . . . some day.

6 We shall live in peace . . . some day.

This anthem of the 1960s civil rights movement was frequently sung at mass meetings and marches. Several sources have been cited as its origins, including the spiritual "No more auction block for me" based on the tune known as Sicilian Mariners; an old Baptist hymn "I'll Be All Right"; and part of the text from C. A. Tindley's gospel hymn "I'll Overcome Someday."

Tune: WE SHALL OVERCOME Irr.
United States traditional
Harm. J. Jefferson Cleveland, 1981

There Is a Balm in Gilead

Jer. 8:18-22; 46:11; Acts 10:34-43

African-American spiritual; alt.

Refrain

There is a balm in Gil-e-ad, to make the wound-ed whole,

Last time, end

there is a balm in Gil-e-ad, to heal the sin-sick soul.

1 Some - times I feel dis - cour-aged, and think my work's in vain,
 2 Don't ev - er feel dis - cour-aged, for Je - sus is your friend,
 3 If you can - not preach like Pe - ter, if you can - not pray like Paul,

to Refrain

But then the Ho - ly Spir - it re - vives my soul a - gain.
 who, if you ask for knowl-edge, will nev - er fail to lend.
 you can tell the love of Je - sus, who died to save us all.

This is one of the most moving of the African-American spirituals because it illustrates the way in which the enslaved tried to encourage those who were feeling especially weighed down by the burden of their captivity.

Tune: BALM IN GILEAD Irr. with refrain
 African-American spiritual

Precious Lord, Take My Hand

Thomas A. Dorsey, 1932; alt.

1 Pre - cious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand,
 2 When my way grows drear, pre-cious Lord, lin - ger near,
 3 When the shad - ows ap - pear, and the night draws near,

I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;
 when my life is al - most gone,
 and the day is past and gone.

Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light:
 Hear me cry, hear my call, hold my hand, lest I fall:
 At the riv - er I stand, guide my feet, hold my hand:

Refrain

Take my hand, pre - cious Lord, lead me home.

Thomas A. Dorsey was known as "Georgia Tom" when he played piano for blues singer Ma Rainey. He started writing gospel songs after what he called "a definite spiritual change." This inspirational song, composed following the deaths of his wife, Nettie, and a newborn child, derives from the tune Maitland.

Tune: PRECIOUS LORD Irr. with refrain
 Thomas A. Dorsey, 1932

Lift Every Voice and Sing

James Weldon Johnson, 1921; alt.

1 Lift ev-ery voice and sing, till earth and heav - en ring, ring with the
2 Ston-y the road we trod, bit-ter the chas-tening rod, felt in the
3 God of our wea - ry years, God of our si - lent tears, God who has

har - mo - nies of lib - er - ty; Let our re - joic - ing
days when hope un - born had died; Yet with a stead - y
brought us thus far on the way; God, who by your

rise, high as the lis - tening skies, let it re - sound loud as the
beat, have not our wea - ry feet, come to the place for which our
might, led us in - to the light, keep us for - ev - er in the

roll - ing sea. Sing a song full of the
peo - ple sighed? We have come o - ver a
path, we pray. Lest our feet stray from the

Poet James Weldon Johnson was the first African-American to pass the bar examination in the state of Florida, and served as U.S. consul in Venezuela and Nicaragua. He collaborated with his composer brother, John Rosamond Johnson, to write Broadway operettas and edit song collections. John appeared in vaudeville, directed London musicals, and headed the Music School Settlement in New York.

Tune: LIFT EVERY VOICE Irr.
J. Rosamond Johnson, 1921

faith that the harsh past has taught us, Sing a song full of the
way that with tears has been wa - tered, We have come, tread - ing our
plac - es, our God, where we met you, Lest our hearts, drunk with the

hope that the pres - ent has brought us; Fac - ing the
path through the blood of the slaugh - tered, Out from the
wine of the world, for - get you; Shad - owed be -

ris - ing sun of our new day be - gun, let us march
gloom - y past, till now we stand at last where the white
neath your hand, may we for - ev - er stand, true to our

on till vic - to - ry is won.
gleam of our bright star is cast.
God, true to our na - tive land.