

# The Word Became FLESH and OCCUPIED Us:

*The Church and the 99 Percent*



*Metropolitan Association, New York Conference,  
United Church of Christ*

**Martin Luther King, Jr., Day - January 16, 2012  
SERVICE OF WORSHIP AND CELEBRATION**

*Convened by the Association's Committee on  
Church and the Metropolitan Community  
Hosted by Judson Memorial Church, 55 Washington Square South,  
New York, NY*

*Metropolitan Association, New York Conference, United Church of Christ*  
**Martin Luther King, Jr., Day - January 16, 2012  
ORDER FOR WORSHIP AND PROGRAM**

PRELUDE

The Milton Street Revival Band:  
Jason Benjamin - Trumpet, Guitar  
Rob Kendt- Guitar  
Beth Price - Double bass  
Dan Costello - Piano

WELCOME AND OPENING PRAYER

The Rev. Toni Walrond

RESPONSIVE READING/SINGING

The Rev. Cheri Kroon

*Hymn tune: "O, For a World"/"O, For a Thousand Tongues to Sing"*

**One** - The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed

**Many** -     *♪ O for a world where everyone respects each other's ways,  
Where love is lived and all is done with justice and with praise.*

**One** - To bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners;

**Many** -     *♪ O for a world where goods are shared and misery relieved,  
Where truth is spoken, children spared, equality achieved.*

**One** - To proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion.

**Many** -     *♪ The poor are rich, the weak are strong, the foolish ones  
are wise.  
Tell all who mourn: outcasts belong, who perishes will rise.*

**One** - To give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.

**All** -       *♪ O for a world preparing for God's glorious reign of peace.  
Where time and tears will be no more, and all but love will cease.*

ANCIENT TESTIMONY

**Isaiah 61:1**

Steven Lee

*The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners;*

**Mark 1:1-11**

*The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,*

*“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way;  
the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:  
‘Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight,’”*

*John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.*

*Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”*

*In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan.*

*And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”*

NEW TESTIMONY

**The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr:**

*Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?'*

SINGING

“Lead Me, Guide Me”

**CHORUS:**

♪ **Lead me, guide me along the way,  
For if you lead me I cannot stray.  
Lord let me walk each day with Thee.  
Lead me, oh Lord, lead me.**

Verse 1:

♪ **I am weak and I need thy strength and power  
To help me over my weakest hour.  
Lead me through the darkness thy face to see,  
Lead me, oh Lord, lead me**

♪ **CHORUS**

Verse 2:

♪ **Help me tread in the paths of righteousness.  
Be my aid when Satan and sin oppress.  
I am putting all my trust in Thee:  
Lead me, oh Lord lead me.**

♪ **CHORUS**

Verse 3:

♪ **I am lost if you take your hand from me,  
I am blind without Thy light to see.  
Lord just always to me thy servant be,  
Lead me, oh Lord lead me.**

♪ **CHORUS**

SERMON

“Do We Believe What We Say?”

The Rev. Dr. Arnold Isidore Thomas

CALL TO OFFERING

The Rev. Dr. Jeannette Zaragoza de Leon

*Today's offering will be shared between Occupy Faith – New York,  
and Justice and Witness Ministries of the United Church of Christ  
to help facilitate participation in Occupy Faith by UCC congregations  
across the country.*

OFFERTORY MUSIC

The Milton Street Revival Band

OFFERTORY PRAYER "A Giving of Love Inspired by Dr. King's Words"  
The Rev. Dr. Jeannette Zaragoza de Leon

**Right Side** - "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."

**Left Side** - *We believe that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word in reality.*

**Left Side** - *"[Human beings] must evolve for all human conflict a method which rejects revenge, aggression, and retaliation. The foundation of such a method is love."*

**Right Side** - We recognize that the foundation for any method that wants to resolve all human conflict is love.

**Right Side** - "Love is the only force capable of transforming an enemy into friend." MLK

**Left Side** - *We welcome love as the divine force capable of making more friends.*

**Right Side** - "Hatred paralyzes life; love releases it. Hatred confuses life; love harmonizes it. Hatred darkens life; love illuminates it." MLK

**Left Side** - *Love is the liberating force that brings about life, harmony, and light.*

**Leader** - May our giving be an expression of the love of God for us, for God's creation, for all God's children, our sisters and brothers. May our generous giving express our commitment to continue to love our fellow Christians, the "anonymous Christians," our ecumenical, and interfaith brothers and sisters. May our offering represent an act of love that builds the kin-dom of God, a reign of Love among May our offering be a building block towards a



**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 hast brought us thus far on the way;  
Thou Who hast by Thy might, led us into the light,  
Keep us forever in Thy 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.**

□ LUNCH AND FELLOWSHIP □

Prayer Before Eating: Prabhu Subramanyam

**THANKS to...**

- The Rev. Dr. Arnold Isidore Thomas, our preacher this morning, who serves as Minister with Education, Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations at The Riverside Church in the City of New York

- Members of the Milton Street Revival Band, from Greenpoint Reformed Church
- Our panelists
- Our host, Judson Memorial Church, its ministers and members
- All who helped to lead, create and bring about this morning's service, program and fellowship – every task, large and small, was needed and appreciated!