



with a proper recognition that injustice is real. Let us confess the stronghold of sin that would consume us. And let us be awakened by the movement of the spirit that gives us life. Let us pray:

**P: God of Justice, whenever we settle for the way things are instead of the way you would have them to be, forgive us. Whenever we are paralyzed by fear or limited in vision, increase our trust in you. Whenever we offer charity, but fail to work for justice, show us the more excellent way that your love requires. Whenever we tire of the struggle and tomorrow feels overwhelming, restore our hope. Whenever we forget those who have gone before us or act as if we were the first to follow in the Way, allow us to recognize our arrogance. May the witness of our brother Martin encourage us to be dreamers for Jesus' sake. Amen.**

\* THE ASSURANCE OF GOD'S PARDON

O: If, by reflection, analysis, and prayer, we are freed to acknowledge the wrongs around us, the pain among us, the sin within us, and the work before us, God's mission of peace with justice is being revealed in our midst. Always remember and never forget: Your burden has been lifted! The liberating love of God is at work within you!

**P: Let us celebrate this great grace by offering to one another a sign of Christ's peace.**

\* PASSING OF THE PEACE

(As a sign of reconciliation with God and each other, all may greet those around them with an embrace or a handshake, accompanied by such words as: "The peace of God be with you," and the response: "And also with you.")

SONGS OF WITNESS AND PRAISE

First Baptist Choir

Mrs. Francis Pringle, Music Director – Mrs. Lydia Thompson, Song Leader

*We Hear the Challenging Words*

INTRODUCTION

Words on Economic Injustice

... from Scripture

... from Dr. King

Litany

L: For a nation in which the welfare of corporations is deemed more important than the welfare of people.

**C: We lift up the ashes of our remorse, O God.**

L: For a nation that offers bootstraps to the impoverished but bailouts to the wealthy,

**C: We lift up the stones of our hypocrisy, O God.**

L: For the emerging awareness that the human family must join together to save a planet in peril,

**C: We lift up the flower of our compassion, O God.**

L: For the growing commitment to a spiritual maturity that is attained through material simplicity, we lift up the flower of our resolve, O God.

**C: We confessed our sins, we shook hands in peace, we are one in Christ!**

Hymn of Reflection

563 NCH

"We Cannot Own the Sunlit Sky"

Words on Militarism

... from Scripture

... from Dr. King

Litany

L: For each vibrant life and hopeful dream that is annihilated by war and written off as necessary collateral damage,

**C: We lift up the ashes of our pain, O God.**

L: For a nation in which money is readily available for warfare but never available for health care,

**C: We lift up the stones of our arrogance, O God.**

L: For the brave warriors of peace who stare down tanks and place their bodies before bulldozers to call us to a vision of the world that could be,

**C: We lift up the flower of our hope, O God.**

L: For the capacity within the human spirit to imagine another's grief as our own, we lift up the flower of our resolve, O God.

**C: We confessed our sins, we shook hands in peace, we are one in Christ!**

Hymn of Reflection

589 NCH

"Let There Be Light, O God of Hosts"

Words on Racism

... from Scripture

... from Dr. King

Litany

L: For a nation that stood idle when its Black citizens were purged from voting lists and their homes were swept away by hurricanes

**C: We lift up the ashes of our remorse, O God.**

L: For a nation that expects immigrants of color to clean its houses and sweat in its fields in exchange for poverty pay and living with the daily fear of deportation,

**C: We lift up the stones of our self-righteousness, O God.**

L: For a country that has elected an African American to sit in the Oval Office of a White House that was once built by slaves,

**C: We lift up the flower of our hope, O God.**

L: For the fierce vision of our oneness that refuses to let us go, we lift up the flower of our resolve, O God.

**C: We confessed our sins, we shook hands in peace, we are one in Christ!**

Hymn of Reflection

388 NCH

"Help Us Accept Each Other" vs. 1& 2

*The Call to Action*

O: A child once dreamed the Voice was calling his name... 'Samuel'; Fisherman once heard the Voice when a young man bid them follow; And still the Voice beckons today... can you hear?

**P: Here I am. Send me.**

O: Moses protested vehemently as the Voice spoke at the burning bush; Mary stood amazed as the Voice proclaimed impending birth; And still the Voice beckons today... can you hear?

**P: Here I am. Send me.**

O: Rosa Parks followed the Voice to the front of the bus; Martin Luther King, Jr. heard the Voice as the bullet shattered; And still the Voice beckons today... can you hear?

**P: Here I am. Send me.**

O: The Voice beckons from humble places... in the tears of hungry children, in the cries of the frail and frightened elderly, in the pleas of those whose dreams have been too long deferred; And still the Voice beckons today... can you hear?

**P: Here I am. Send me.**

O: A timid believer pauses to listen to the Voice; A struggling church hears the Voice and turns; And still the Voice beckons today... can you hear?

**P: Here I am. Send me.**

ANTHEM

"Here I Am Lord"

Trinity Choir

OFFERING

**Today's offering will be sent to the King Center in Washington, D.C.**

OFFERTORY

\*OFFERTORY RESPONSE

780 NCH

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;**

**Praise God, all creatures here below;**

**Praise God above, you heavenly host;**

**Creator, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION