

# First Congregational Church of Wakefield



## United Church of Christ

Gathered 1785



*We are an Open and Affirming congregation.  
No matter where you are on life's journey,  
you are welcome here!*



**January 19th, 2025**

Intentional Interim Minister—Rev. Larry Brickner-Wood

Sunday Deacons—Ken Ballinger & Jo Szirbik

Greeters—Ann Bilodeau & Linda Messer

Tech Team—Kaylee Fogg, Nathan Fogg,  
Frank Frazier, Max Gehring, Carol Jeffery, Mjo McCarthy  
& Barry Truhn

Voice Choir Director & Organist—Cindy Eggleston  
Bell Choir Director—Kevin Connell  
Guitarist—Buddy Dee

**Welcome to MLK Sunday Worship!**

(\* Please stand if able. Bold content is read in unison.)

**Prelude**

**Welcome, Brief Announcements & Centering Moment**

**Introit & Candle Lighting**

**\*Responsive Call to Worship**

Leader: With the rolling waters of mighty streams, we gather to join the movement of God's justice.

**All: "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.**

**We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly."**<sup>1</sup>

Leader: With the future dreams of a mustard seed, we come together to join the movement of Jesus' liberation.

**All: "Every step towards the goal of justice requires...struggle; the tireless exertions and passionate concern of dedicated individuals. This is no time for apathy or complacency. This is a time for vigorous and positive action."**<sup>2</sup>

Leader: With the shining light of a tender flame, we bring our hearts, to join the movement of the Spirit's love.

**All: "It is true that as we struggle for freedom in America we will have to boycott at times. But we must remember...that a boycott is not an end within itself...the end is the creation of the beloved community. It is this love which will bring about miracles in the hearts of people."**<sup>3</sup>

Leader: Ringing with prayer and praise, bringing our unique gifts and passions, we become the Body of Christ, moving with faith and action in the world.

**All: Joining this great movement of hope, let us worship God.**

**\*Opening Hymn "Precious Lord, Take My Hand" Blue Hymnal #611**

**\*Responsive Invocation & Opening Prayer**

Leader: Listen, people of God, for the voice of God is calling:

"The ultimate measure of a person is not where they stand in moments of comfort and convenience, but where they stand at times of challenge and controversy."<sup>1</sup>

**All: In difficult times, God calls us to join the movement of courageous truth-tellers.**

Leader: In comfortable times, God calls us to join the movement of silence-breakers.

**All: In times of struggle, God calls us to join the movement toward freedom.**

Leader: In times of peace, God calls us to join the movement toward justice.

**All: In all times, God calls us to join with the movement of the Spirit.**

Leader: Listen, people of God, for the voice of God is calling:

"Make a career of humanity. Commit yourself to the noble struggle for equal rights. You will make a better person of yourself, a greater nation of your country, and a finer world to live in."<sup>2</sup>

**All: Let us worship God, listening for the voice that calls us to join the movement of love.**

**Responsive Message for All Ages "I am Somebody" written by Rev. Jesse Jackson**

**All: I am Somebody.**

One: I may be poor,

**But I am Somebody.**

I may be young,

**But I am Somebody.**

I may be on welfare,

**But I am Somebody.**

I may be small,

**But I am Somebody.**  
I may have made mistakes,  
**But I am Somebody.**  
My clothes are different,  
My face is different,  
My hair is different,  
**But I am Somebody.**  
I am black, brown, or white.  
I speak a different language  
**But I must be respected,**  
Protected, Never rejected.  
**I am God's child!**

**Scriptures** (NRSVUE)

*Gloria Ballinger*

Psalm 36:5-10, I Corinthians 12:1-11, John 2:1-11

**Reflection** "Coming out of the Shadows"

**Song** "Take Us Home by Another Way" by Christopher Grundy, lyric video by the Grove Band

**Chorus**

**Spirit, take us home**  
**take us home by another way**  
**take us long way 'round the tyrants**  
**and their schemes,**  
**Give us strength to walk**  
**Show us dreams of a better day and we'll pave the way with justice.**  
**going home by another way.**

### **The Church Family at Prayer**

*Sharing of Celebrations & Concerns*

*Unison Prayers of the People & the Lord's Prayer*

Gracious God, We live in times of deep division, mistrust, and violence. Bless in a special way our celebration of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Open our hearts and minds to your truth and renew our commitment to justice and peace, pursued through cooperation and love. Fill us with your Holy Spirit, that we might realize and accept that we are all members of the same human family, created in your image and likeness. May the example of Dr. King inspire us to see in one another, sisters, brothers and non-binary, with a common origin and destiny, guided by the conviction that together we can nobly fulfill the promise of our nation.

We pray in the name of the God who is our creator and who calls us to create communities of justice, freedom and peace, Our Father/Creator...Amen.

### **The Offering of our Gifts for Church & World**

*Choir Offertory Anthem* "Laudate Dominum" by Jerry Estes

*\*Doxology (see screen)*

*Unison Prayer of Dedication*

God, we are your body of Christ, diverse and different, delightful and divine, with many gifts which we pray to use to bring the Beloved Community to reality. Help us to use these gifts wisely as faithful disciples of Christ. Amen.

**\*Closing Hymn** "We Shall Overcome" NCH #570

**\*Sung Benediction**

*Ken & Gloria Ballinger*

**Postlude**

## Happenings

### \*\*\*REMINDERS\*\*\*

*\* ALL ARE WELCOME to join us downstairs  
after service for Coffee Hour!*

*\* Please let George Ackerman know if you would like to attend the Men's Fellowship Friends  
Dinner at Moose Mtn Lodge 1/22 at 6pm!*

*\* Please let Nancy Dee know if you are able to make/donate soup by 1/25 for our upcoming Souper  
Saturday Sale in Feb!*

### \*\*\*See Steeple Views & Happenings Emails for Details\*\*\*

- CareGivers Support Group: 1st & 3rd Mon @ 9:30 am
- Finance Ministry Meeting: 3rd Mon @ 1:00 pm
- Voice Choir Practice: Mon @ 5:30 pm
- The WAY Meeting: various Mon @ 6:30 (*check happenings emails*)
- Prayer Shawl Group: 3rd Tues @ 10:00 am
- Adult Faith Formation: Tues @ 12:00 pm
- Ukulele Club: 2nd & 4th Tues @ 6:00 pm
- NEW Chair Yoga: Wed @ 10:00 am
- Diaconate Meeting: 1st Wed @ 5:00 pm
- End 68 Hours of Hunger Volunteer Meeting: Thurs @ 10:00 am
- Parish Helper's Meeting: 2nd Thurs @ 1:00 pm
- BLPOA Meeting: 2nd Thurs @ 6:00 pm
- Leadership Council Meeting: **1/19 after fellowship**

## Prayers

- ◇ Dave & Charlotte L
- ◇ The Fogg Family
- ◇ Nancy B
- ◇ Richard W
- ◇ Bob L
- ◇ Cindy E
- ◇ Carol J's Family: Chrissy & Michael
- ◇ Our sister church in Zimbabwe, Rufumiso UCCZ
- ◇ FCCW Search & Call Team
- ◇ CA Wildfire Victims



## Credits

1. The Scripture Readings are from the New Revised Standard Version, Updated Edition. Copyright © 2021 National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide and the Living Psalms project.
2. The Call to Worship and Opening Prayer are from the UCC "Resources for Reimagining MLK Day," created by Sharon R. Fennema, 2022.
3. The Litany "I Am Somebody" is written by Rev. Jesse Jackson and was done with kids on Sesame Street and collected from the Worship Words Resource.
4. The Prayers of the People are from Bon Secours, a Community Health Care System and Organization in Baltimore, Maryland.
5. The Opening and Closing Hymns are two of Dr. Martin Luther King's favorites.
6. Going Home by Another Way is written by Christopher Grundy. The lyrics are from the Grove Band, a church band. <http://www.youtube.com/@thegroveband43>.
7. Our songs are covered under our music license, One License #742268-A
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