

Epiphany

“Gratitude bestows reverence, allowing us to encounter everyday epiphanies, those transcendent moments of awe that change forever how we experience the world.” ~ John Milton

If you have ever had a prayer come knocking so brashly that it appeared you had not only been summoned, but you discovered your doorway gaping open, you will understand why a hope prayer is significant. Hope prayers tug at the soul, jostle our rest and usually claim some of the people we love the most. These prayers blow open the center of our being and ultimately nudge open new realities about the way we live. Hope prayers like many prayers are expectant and their angst pines for a new understanding or epiphany. Lord, in this world whirring around me, please let something new come. Let me forge change.

January is a time when calendars beckon us to forge newness in the year sprawling in front of us. “Epiphany” encompasses, “an illuminating discovery, realization, or insight,” or “a revealing scene or moment.” Epiphany is paired with our recollection of star gazers or wise ones who dreamed and hoped bigger to allow themselves to look less on the troubled world they stood in and be quickened across an unknown distance by starry constellations to a hope-laden Jesus. I suppose our prayers are a trust like this too. We allow our vision to be lifted in these offerings to plead and pledge with plump optimism that somehow there will be a sense of a new and different peace in the places our feet are planted. A prayer for an epiphany leaves a holy space open.

The late Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., who we honor in January and daily, lived an earnest dream of a prayer. King prayed, preached, sang, was jailed, threatened and scared. He concluded, in the demeanor only this sincere, courageous black man, whose prayer would be immense enough to become the *I Have A Dream* speech: “The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.”

King stepped to the forefront of an open space not of holiness, but rather of hatred as he forged a movement blessing “those who were considered the least of these.” King’s dream is a prayer for all of us. Underlying all of this, Jesus claims this open, holy space. God, the Shelter, claims us all. Is it any wonder that King penned, “Only in the darkness can you see the stars.” His prayer reminds us of wise men following a star.

What about us? We wrestle humanly, pushing at the hugeness to close these unhinged doors. The edgy or estranged family who we keep a light on for, the injustice, the person whose soul yearns for the soul mate residing heaven side or the friend that is just plain unfriendly. These are some of the lonely, quiet places of a soul that Jesus claims to come for. The Walking God-man whom is no longer contained in a stable is living out loud in and all around us. “Come to me when your burden is heavy, and I might give your weariness a rest.”

Coretta Scott King found purposefulness in continuing the non-violent movement. Coretta was criticized for not properly mourning when she led a march to remember her husband and another representing the sanitation workers strike. She recalls giving “a speech from my heart.” “I was impelled to come,” she said at the time. “I ask the question, ‘How many men must die before we can really have a free and true and peaceful society?’” Coretta was in this foreign, open place.

Clayborne Carson, a professor of history and director of the MLK Research and Education Institute at Stanford remembers: “I just think that that was one of the most incredibly brave acts in my lifetime ... To have the courage to go back to the place where her husband was assassinated with her kids and with the history of the previous violence that had brought Martin back to Memphis.”

Leaving an open door to The Holy is not easy. An openness might become complicated simply because these edgy prayers are the thresholds of our hope laden epiphanies. Perhaps, it might be clearer if we realign God, the Shelter into our doorways of prayer. God is at the threshold immersed poignantly and patiently in his choice to bear hurt in his life and now with us. Prophetic voices from long ago tell us “I know the plans I have for you, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” These voices lead and reverberate across centuries in sacred texts lifting our eyes to “let His people go” to a new sort of promised land. Might we carry along a vision of God, the Shelter to realign our waits. What might God do in this and how might I be a part of what is restorative with God? Amen. ~ J. Jacot

**Prayer at WBLUMC:** One way our church helps nourish and support the hungers of life is through prayer. If you have a special need or celebration that could use extra care, we invite you to partake in one of these prayer avenues. If your spirit has the need to support others through prayer, we invite you to join in one of the teams. **The Prayer Team:** If you would like to request a prayer from this team, please write it on a prayer request card or contact Julie Jacot at 651-777-3728 or [ljjacot@q.com](mailto:ljjacot@q.com). **The Email Prayer Chain** accepts requests by contacting a pastor or leader Ronda Nelson, [rondalauva2@msn.com](mailto:rondalauva2@msn.com).



White Bear Lake  
UNITED  
METHODIST  
CHURCH

1851 BIRCH STREET, WBL, MN 55110 | 651-429-9026 | [WBLUMC.ORG](http://WBLUMC.ORG)

White Bear Lake  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
NOURISHING THE HUNGERS OF LIFE

9am & 10:45am Worship ~ Sunday, January 20, 2019

HEARING ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE; PLEASE SEE USHERS • PLEASE STAND AS YOU ARE ABLE

Living out Loud: Remembering Martin Luther King, Jr.

WORDS FOR REFLECTION

“We must meet hate with love. We must meet physical force with soul force.

There is still a voice crying out through the vista of time, saying: ‘Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, pray for them that despitefully use you.’ Then, and only then, can you matriculate into the university of eternal life. That same voice cries out in terms lifted to cosmic proportions: ‘He who lives by the sword will perish by the sword.’ And history is replete with the bleached bones of nations that failed to follow this command. We must follow nonviolence and love.”

~ Martin Luther King, Jr., “Give Us the Ballot” address (1957),  
delivered at the Prayer Pilgrimage for Freedom (Call to Conscience) Washington, D.C.

PRELUDE	“Come Sunday” Maruice Jacox, vocals; John Koziol, keyboards	by Duke Ellington
ANTHEM	“Truly Brave” Presented by the Choral Scholars	by Bareilles & Lauper
INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME		Pastor Bill Eaves
✦OPENING HYMN	“Lift Every Voice and Sing” All stanzas	No. 519
MORNING PRAYER		Pastor John McBride

THE LORD’S PRAYER

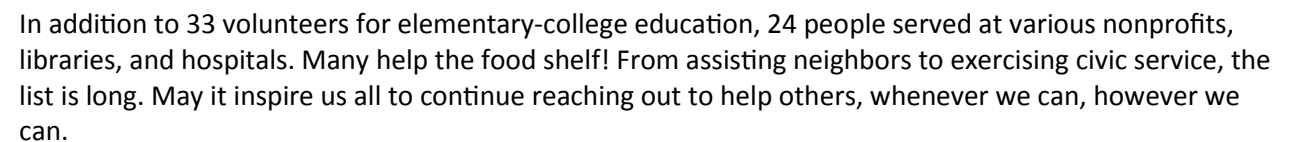
**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

ANTHEM	“People Get Ready” Maurice Jacox, vocals	by Curtis Mayfield	+HYMN	“I Have a Dream” Stanzas 1-4	No. 3127
SCRIPTURES	Isaiah 40:3-6	Readers: Sheri Ober, 9am Kirk Holslin, 10:45am	LETTER FROM A BIRMINGHAM JAIL CONNECTION CARDS <i>Please take time now to fill out your green connection cards to help us track attendance. After the prayer of dedication, you may place them in the offering plates as they are passed to you.</i>		Peteria Cochran Routt
	A voice cries out: “In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.”		PRAYER OF DEDICATION		
	Luke 6:27-32 “But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. Do to others as you would have them do to you. “If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them.”		OFFERING	“Someday We Will All Be Free” Maurice Jacox, vocals	by Donny Hathaway
	RESPONSE TO THE WORD <i>Leader:</i> For the word of God in Scripture, for the word of God among us, for the word of God within us. <i>All: Thanks be to God.</i>		ANNOUNCEMENTS		
			+CLOSING HYMN	“Freedom Is Coming” All stanzas	No. 2192
			+BENEDICTION		
			+POSTLUDE	“Stand By Me” Maurice Jacox, vocals	by Ben E. King
ANTHEM	“Ubi Caritas/We Shall Overcome” Chancel Choir with Maurice Jacox	by Ola Gjeilo		TODAY’S MUSICIANS	
	Ubi caritas et amor, Deus ibi est. Congregavit nos in unum Christi amor. Exultemus, et in ipso iucundemur. Timeamus, et amemus Deum vivum. Et ex corde diligamus nos sincero. Amen.	Where charity and love are, God is there. Christ's love has gathered us into one. Let us rejoice and be pleased in Him. Let us fear, and let us love the living God. And may we love each other with a sincere heart. Let it be so.		<b>Maurice Jacox</b> , guest vocalist; <b>Scott Ives</b> , guitar; <b>Chris Boston</b> , bass; <b>David Doll</b> , percussion; <b>John Koziol</b> , keyboards; <b>Kirk Holslin</b> , sound technician; <b>Bridget Franzmeier</b> and <b>Chris Faust</b> , Powerpoint presenters	
THE MOST SEGREGATED HOUR		Missie Ablerle		Please welcome our new Choral Scholars: Meagan Seubert, soprano; Alma Neuhaus, mezzo; Tyler Berg, tenor	
ANTHEM	“Wake Up Everybody” Maurice Jacox, vocals	by McFadden/Whitehead		ALTAR FLOWERS	
VIDEO	“I Have a Dream”			Today’s altar arrangement is provided by Steve Peterson, for all those who marched and those who still are!  If you’d like to provide altar flowers for worship, please sign up on the 2019 calendar outside the church office. Please also complete a form to indicate your dedication, preferred arrangement type and payment amount. Leave the form and payment in the church office. Thank you.	

Common Hope Student Sponsors, we'd love to post your student on the bulletin board outside the doors to Fellowship Hall. Please send a photo of your student with his or her background information to Lori McBride, Minister of Missions and Faith Development, at [lori.mcbride@wblumc.org](mailto:lori.mcbride@wblumc.org). We want to be sure that anyone who sponsors a student is included. Thank you!

9-10am—Worship; Sunday School & nursery  
10:10am—All-church charge conference, room 200  
10-10:45am—Coffee, tea, and treats, Fellowship Hall;  
prayer room is open  
10:45-11:30am—Worship; Children’s Church & nursery

**John Koziol, Jr.**, Director of Music  
**Gerald Gurss**, Chancel Choir  
Director  
**Patricia Kytola**, Director of  
Operations  
**Lauri Hoppie**, Administrative  
Assistant  
**Lori Hughes**, Website & Social  
Media  
**Carol Houghtby**, Treasurer  
**Carolyn Keith**, Financial Secretary  
**Ron Houde**, Housekeeper



~ Sheila Bennett, Board of Directors



## Adult Faith Formation



### Save the date: Feb. 6

**Both Sides Now with John Koziol:** WBLUMC's Director of Music, will join us on **Wednesday, Feb. 6**, to speak about what he's learned from playing music and service in different denominational settings, including his own spiritual and musical journey, the value of building bridges and other golden nuggets he can't wait to share. John will speak at 6:30pm in Fellowship Hall, and a light supper will follow. Bring a friend to this free event! Contact Lori McBride, minister of missions and faith development, with questions at [lori.mcbride@wblumc.org](mailto:lori.mcbride@wblumc.org).

### Save the date: Feb. 17

**Como Conservatory outing:** Stay tuned for details on a fellowship outing to Marjorie McNeely Conservatory in St. Paul at 12:30pm on **Sunday, Feb. 17**. Email Lori McBride, [lori.mcbride@wblumc.org](mailto:lori.mcbride@wblumc.org).

### Resources for senior citizens

Would you like information on resources for senior housing, Medicare, home care, housekeeping help, long-term care, health-problem support groups, or caregiver support? The WBLUMC Congregational Care Team has prepared a packet on the many resources available in our state and local communities. Pick up a copy at the church office in the CCT mailbox.

### Tomorrow! 42nd Wild Game Dinner

The featured speaker at this year's Wild Game Dinner will be our own Kurt Johnson, who will talk about his adventures hunting big game around the world on **Monday, Jan. 21**. Everyone is invited to join us for delicious and interesting dishes prepared by members of WBLUMC, starting at 6pm with appetizers followed by main dishes and Kurt's presentation. Sign up in Fellowship Hall; cost is \$20 per person, \$15 each for youth/seniors 65+ or \$10 for children 10 and younger. Contact Paul Dickson, Al Rausch or Jeff Olson with questions. Join us!

### All-church charge conference

All church members are requested to attend a charge conference to set the annual budget at 10:10am next **Sunday, Jan. 27**, in room 200.

### How to get church information

Have you ever wondered what's happening on any given day at WBLUMC? Need another member's phone number, e-mail or mailing address? These can be at your fingertips, if you have a computer or smart phone. Go to the church website, [wblumc.org](http://wblumc.org), and click on the events tab for a month-by-month view. This is available to the public, so when sharing information about your worship home, tell others to check out the website and calendar. To get a church directory on your computer, you'll need to log on to the secure WBLUMC site, just like you do when giving online. The complete directory is there for you to use, and it's updated frequently. If you have a smart phone, just download the Church Life app and follow the directions.

If you need help with any of these steps, call Patricia Kytola at 651-429-9026 x104 or email her at [patricia.kytola@wblumc.org](mailto:patricia.kytola@wblumc.org). Office hours are Monday-Thursday 9 am to 3 pm.

## Bread Ministry updates



### Thank you

From Bread Ministry co-leader Glenn Oliphant: "Thank you everyone for your efforts to help raise funds for Solid Ground. I am pleased to let you know that last week we gave Solid Ground a check for \$550. We are so blessed to have wonderful volunteers and donors who help us make an impact to improve the lives of those less fortunate."

### February bread

The next Baking with a Purpose will be **Sunday, Feb. 3**, with bread pick-up after each service. February's selections will be Country White and sourdough Craisin Walnut. All donations will go to Common Hope. Email [golipha@gmail.com](mailto:golipha@gmail.com) to volunteer to prep, bake or distribute. Thanks!

## Children & Youth

### Youth pizza night

WBLUMC youth will make pizzas with the bread team on **Wednesday, Jan. 23**, 6-7:30pm. Email Glenn at [golipha@gmail.com](mailto:golipha@gmail.com) to volunteer with the bread team or Missie at [missie.aberle@wblumc.org](mailto:missie.aberle@wblumc.org) for questions about youth involvement.

### Bible Milestone class

Bible Milestone class for 3rd/4th graders will be held **Sunday, Jan. y 27**, at 10:45am for adults and children. After class, there is a lunch for the family followed by a blessing and the gift of your student's new bible. It's a "milestone" in your child's faith formation. **RSVP by Jan. 24** to [joan.hartman@wblumc.org](mailto:joan.hartman@wblumc.org).