

Sunday, 19 January 2025 – Second Sunday after Epiphany

The season of Epiphany goes from the Epiphany of the Lord on January 6 through the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday. Ash Wednesday this year is March 5, 2025.

<https://pcusa.org/about-pcusa/agencies-entities/interim-unified-agency/ministry-areas/theology-worship/worship/christian-year/epiphany>

Prelude/Sermon Hymn – *In Christ There Is No East or West*

Harry T. Burleigh (1866-1949) adapted the tune MCKEE in 1940 for use with the text *In Christ There Is No East or West*. He named it for Rev. Elmer McKee, rector of St. George's Church in New York City, where Burleigh was baritone soloist for 52 years. The first prelude is a fanfare based on this hymn tune.

Special Music – *If I Can Help Somebody*

On Feb. 4, 1968, two months before he was assassinated, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. gave a sermon called, *The Drum Major Instinct*. In it, he imagined his own funeral and said he wanted to be remembered for serving others, not for his fame or his many accomplishments. He ended the sermon by quoting from *If I Can Help Somebody*. Dr. King first heard this song in Denver in 1956 and later encouraged Mahalia Jackson to record it, which she did in 1963.

<https://youtu.be/okzmXyoSKeg?si=kIjzWE216mRiUnUG>

Offertory – *This L'il Light of Mine*

Dr. Anthony T. Leach was found of the choir *Essence of Joy* at Penn State University. *Essence of Joy* and Dr. Leach were our guests at ELPC in 2012, 2016, and 2017. In November 2022 Dr. Leach returned to lead our Chancel Choir and guest singers in a choral festival of music by living African-American composers. We mourn his recent passing and give thanks for his life and music that brought joy to so many.

In loving memory of Dr. Anthony T. Leach
(8 April 1951 – 8 January 2025)

Recessional Hymn – *We Shall Overcome*

We Shall Overcome is recognized as the unofficial anthem of the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s. It was popular with folk singers, including Pete Seeger. Joan Baez led a crowd of 300,000 in singing *We Shall Overcome* at the Lincoln Memorial in August 1963. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. recited the words to the hymn at Washington National Cathedral on Sunday, March 31, 1968 during his final Sunday sermon before being assassinated days later on April 4. It was sung the following week by over 50,000 people at the end of Dr. King's funeral on April 9, 1968.

Postlude - *Improvisation on We Shall Overcome*

Dr. Carl T. Haywood (b. 1949), a native of Portsmouth, Virginia, was director of choral activities at Norfolk State University and organist/choir director at Grace Episcopal Church in Norfolk. *Improvisation on We Shall Overcome* was composed in 2012 for an MLK Service at St. James's Church, Richmond, Virginia.