

BETHESDA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
8:30 a.m. Sunday 17 January 2021
Second Sunday after the Epiphany/Human Relations Day
(Week of Prayer for Christian Unity:1/18-1/25)

ENTRANCE

Lighting of candles and prelude

Poem*: "***How can we?***"

How can we break bread?

and not remember those who have no bread?

How can we meet together?

**and not remember those separated
from their families and friends?**

How can we shelter here?

**and not remember those whose only shelter
is a refugee camp or a cardboard box?**

How can we speak of peace

**and not remember those whose peace is shattered
by constant fear and the rattle of guns?**

How can we sing our hymns

**and not remember those who cannot openly express
their religious beliefs?**

How can we offer our gifts

**and not remember those who are caught
in the never-ending cycle of poverty and debt?**

How can we pour wine

**and not remember those who are imprisoned
by addiction to bottle, needles, or pills?**

How can we celebrate

**and not remember those who suffer
from depression, mental illness, or grief?**

God of human experience, born in a stable in Bethlehem,
Spirit alive in us today,

**In our breaking of bread and pouring of wine,
may we look outwards to the suffering of our world,
remembering the hope of your shalom. Amen.**

(2)

(C) Claire McBeath and Tim Presswood (From *Crumbs of Hope: Prayers from the City Inspire/MPH Peterborough UK 2006*)

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Prayer for Illumination: 570 Prayer of St. Ignatius

First Lesson: 1 Samuel 3:1-20

Psalter: (*Insert: Alternate leader and people*) Psalm 130:1-6,
13-18

Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20

Song: (***Spoken***) 593 "Here I Am, Lord"

Gospel Lesson: John 1:43-51

Sermon: "***Follow the gleam.***"

Joys, Concerns

Prayer of intercession*:

Let us pray in Christian unity. O God,

You love justice and establish peace on earth.

We bring before you the disunity of today's world;

the absurd violence, and the many wars,

which are breaking the courage of the people of the world:

militarism and pollution, which threaten life on the planet;

human greed and injustice, which breed hatred and strife.

For what else shall we pray? (*prayers welcomed*)

Send Your Spirit and renew the face of the earth;

Teach us to be compassionate towards the whole human family;

Strengthen the will of all those who fight for justice

and for peace;

(3)

**lead all nations into the path of peace,
and give us that peace which he world cannot give. Amen.**

*(World Council of Churches Textes liturgiques: Louons
Dieu et celebrons la vie (C) Masamba ma
Mpolo et Mengi Kilandamoko, Zaire, 1988, alt.)*

**THANKSGIVING AND COMMUNION (Page 15ff) (All are
welcome)**

SENDING FORTH

Song: **(Spoken)** 585 "This Little Light of Mine"

Blessing: 106 "God Is Able"

Postlude and extinguishing of candles

**Resources from the website of the World Council of Churches,
used 15 January 2008 at the meeting of the Northeast Ministerium,
held at St. Luke's Lutheran Church (Harford Rd)*