



Rejoicing Spirits at Calvary – January 15th 2012

The theme was “Colors of the Kingdom”

Though bitter cold and windy, a clear blue sky and bright sun welcomed sixty-one worshippers to our service today. We remembered Dr. Martin Luther King and his work as we met to give glory to God and to share Christ’s love. Also, we were pleased to see a number of *new* faces among us in this *new* year, including a large contingent from Melmark.

Our pre-worship song was: *He is the King of Kings! He is the King of kings, He is the Lord of lords. His name is Jesus, Jesus, Jesus. Oh, He is the King!*

Welcome and Announcements

Those who were worshipping for the first time with us were introduced, as was a photographer from “The Lutheran” magazine. She was present to take photos for an article about Rejoicing Spirits that will be in the March edition.

St. Paul’s Lutheran Church, 104 South Village Avenue, Exton, PA 19341 is hosting the musical *Godspell* February 10 through February 18. **The 2:00-4:30 p.m. performance on Saturday, February 11, is being offered at no charge to Rejoicing Spirits friends and family.** RSVP to accept this offer by Monday, February 7 at 610-363-6264 x213 or at info@rejoicingspirits.org (name, address, e-mail and phone number required). Flyers were available for worshippers to take.

Save the date March 13, 2012, for Visionary Voices/Leaders Lessons Legacy. Visionary Voices is a history of the intellectual disability movement in Pennsylvania, and will bring together interviews with leaders in Pennsylvania’s Intellectual Disability Movement with a collection of historically significant papers and documents. It comes through the Institute on Disabilities at Temple University, College of Education. More information will be available next month.

We honor Martin Luther King tomorrow. One of his quotes is: “It is always the right time to do the right thing.” It is good for us to remember this and try to do the right thing all the time.



Our Service Begins

We began worship with our first song (*Lord, I Lift Your Name on High*), our confession, and an opening prayer offered by Pastor Krewson. Then, as in the tradition of early Christians, we passed the peace. During this time, all who are able get out of their seats to greet each other with a handshake and the phrase “*May the peace of the Lord be with you*” or, more simply, “*Peace be with you.*” The passing of the peace is a meaningful part of our Rejoicing Spirits services at Calvary. It gives everyone another opportunity to feel truly welcomed.

Our Second Song and Readings from God’s Holy Word

We all then sang *Thy Word*, our second song. “*Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path. When I feel afraid and think I’ve lost my way, still, you’re right there beside me. Nothing will I fear as long as you are near. Please be near me to the end.*”

Samantha read the first reading from Galatians 3:28: *There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.*

Skyler read the first gospel reading from John 17:11: *Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.*

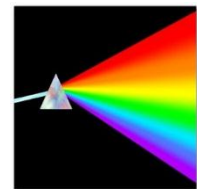
Fred read the second gospel reading from John 8:32: *Jesus said, "And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."*

Highlights of the Message

Pastor Krewson introduced Martin Luther King as a man of peace who worked for equality among all the races, regardless of the color of their skin. He then asked an interesting question: What color do you think is God's favorite color? Intrigued, people thought for a while. He then proceeded to say that he thought God's favorite color might be white (not referring to Caucasian), since white has all the other colors in it!

We discussed all the glorious colors of a rainbow by looking at a drawing projected onto the screen at the front of the chapel, and then examined the beauty of a real rainbow that had been photographed.

Joking that no one could have guessed that we would have a science lesson today, he walked behind the altar to be nearer the screen to explain how, when light goes through a prism, the colors of the rainbow are separated out from the white by the prism. It was interesting to see a diagram of this and next a photograph of a real prism separating out the colors. Creation includes all colors; white is made by combining them all.



The church, too, uses colors of the rainbow. He then asked for volunteers to come forward one at a time. Each was given a separate clerical stole (which he called a type of scarf) to wear, each having a different color, representing one in the rainbow. Then, donning a white stole himself with different colors on it, he said, "This is one I wear at Christmas and Easter. God's kingdom and creation have many colors, and each is beautiful and important."

Lighting Candles

Joyce directed everyone's attention to four candles (one black, one red, one yellow and one white), and explained that they not only represented all the different races in the world, but all the many other differences among people. As Lloyd lit the candles, we noted that the burning candles with their white flame represent that we are all equally part of God's family.

A prayer was offered as the candles burned. Among many things, we offered thanks for people like Martin Luther King who helped us learn to appreciate the differences among us. We asked God to help us do the right thing and be kind to others.

Fred blew out the candles.

Song of Response

After the message and candle lighting we sang *Trust in the Lord*. "Trust in the Lord with all your heart. Lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight."

Prayers

Those who wished to offer a prayer came to the front of the chapel. We offered prayers of thanks and asked that God would be with those in need, especially a relative who is having knee replacement. One requested God to help with his own knee problems, and our youngest worshipper (five years old) asked that "goodness be spread around the whole world."

Fred led us in the Lord's Prayer.

Happy Birthday Celebrations

Laurie, whose birthday is in December, but who could not be with us last month, came forward with those celebrating January birthdays: Josh L., Nancy, Josh M. and Peter. All were sung to. *"Happy Birthday to you. May Jesus bless you and guide you and keep you the whole year through."* (second verse)

No one was celebrating a wedding anniversary this month.

Closing Song

To close, we sang *Together in One Spirit*, which was written by Herb Frombach especially for Rejoicing Spirits. *"All created equal, together we belong. United in one body, rejoicing in one song. One church, one body, one faith, one Lord. Together in one Spirit, rejoicing in His word."*

Benediction and Dismissal

Pastor Krewson gave the benediction. Then Samantha gave the dismissal: *"Go in peace to love and serve the Lord."*

Fellowship

As always, we met in the parlor adjoining the chapel for some delicious refreshments and a warm time of fellowship. Visitors were greeted, while others were able to catch up with their friends. Even with a group larger than usual, there were more than enough treats to go around. Many thanks to our bakers for doing such a wonderful job!

Next Month

We worship next month on Sunday afternoon, February 19, at 4:00 p.m. in the chapel at Calvary Lutheran Church, 730 South New Street, West Chester. All are welcome. We look forward to seeing you!