

2nd Lenten Sunday, Feb 28
Introduction to The Souls of Black Folk

Prelude

Welcome

The General Assembly of the United Nations has declared 2015–2024 to be the [International Decade for People of African Descent](#). In proclaiming this Decade, the international community is recognizing “that people of African descent represent a distinct group whose human rights must be promoted and protected.”

As people of faith, we know every part of humanity is a reflection, an embodiment of the wisdom and power of God. Yet all of our collective humanity has been diminished and ruptured through the enslavement of African peoples and the colonization and exploitation of those same peoples’ land.

One of the ways the church is engaging with the Decade is by doing targeted work toward combatting racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, and related intolerances faced by people of African descent. We know that prayer has the power to transform and amplify our actions. We therefore invite people to pray during this midway point in the Decade for the human rights and fundamental freedoms of people of African descent.

Call to Worship:

Look back! Look back with courage!

Face the truth God reveals to you!

Look forward! Look forward with hope!

Look to the future! See possibilities growing from the seeds of lessons learned!

There is NO shame in learning history! **There is NO shame in relearning history!**

Let us learn and unlearn history together.

Wisdom is vindicated by all her children.

And all God’s children proclaim: “So be it!” “Amen!”

Prayer:

Almighty God,

Source of Life and Life itself.

Your Holy Spirit gathers us into your presence

As a hen gathers her chicks to herself.

In the safety of this sacred space—virtual or real—help us settle into this time

Of being together: individuals in shared community through Christ and with Christ.

Help us push aside distracting thoughts that impede our learning and our listening.

Help us uncover our fears: drive out each one with your perfect and perfecting love

**So that we can be changed in mind and will be changed in heart.
Thank you for accepting us as teachable: thank you for accepting us as willing disciples
willing to grow in our faith, in our Spirits, and in our connection to you and to one
another.
This, we ask in Jesus' name. Amen.**

Hymn: ***Bless Now, O God, the Journey***

(VU 633—words only; sung to the tune of VU 123 Hosanna, Loud Hosanna)

Scripture: Mark 8: 31-38

Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, 'Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.'

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel,* will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.'

Reflection:

An Introduction to W.E.B Du Bois' The Souls of Black Folk

Video # 1: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tvE3Ft10h2w>

The Choir Anthem: ***Every Time I feel the Spirit***

Moving in my heart, moving in my heart
Moving in my heart, moving in my heart
Upon the mountain, I will pray.
Every time I feel the spirit moving in my heart, I will pray
Every time I feel the spirit moving in my heart, I will pray.
Upon the mountain my Lord spoke
Out of His mouth came fire and smoke
Looked all around me, it looked so fine

Till I asked my Lord if all was mine.
Every time I feel the spirit moving in my heart, I will pray
Every time I feel the spirit moving in my heart, I will pray.
Jordan river, is chilly an' cold
It chills the body but not the soul
There ain't but one train, upon this track
It runs to heaven, an' right back.
Every time I feel the spirit moving in my heart, I will pray
Every time I feel...

Video # 2: "How Does it Feel to Be a Problem?"

An animated excerpt of an article from W.E.B. Du Bois depicts the alienation experienced by African Americans.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z04KVyhZM5g>

I. Of Our Spiritual Strivings

"Between me and the other world there is ever an unasked question: unasked by some through feelings of delicacy; by others through the difficulty of rightly framing it. All, nevertheless, flutter round it. They approach me in a half-hesitant sort of way, eye me curiously or compassionately, and then, instead of saying directly, How does it feel to be a problem? they say, I know an excellent colored man in my town; or, I fought at Mechanicsville; or, Do not these Southern outrages make your blood boil? At these I smile, or am interested, or reduce the boiling to a simmer, as the occasion may require. To the real question, How does it feel to be a problem? I answer seldom a word. And yet, being a problem is a strange experience. ... It dawned upon me with a certain suddenness that I was different from the others; ... shut out from their world by a vast veil. ... for the words I longed for, and all their dazzling opportunities, were theirs, not mine. ...

Why did God make me an outcast and a stranger in mine own house? ... It is a peculiar sensation, this double-consciousness, this sense of always looking at one's self through the eyes of others. ... One ever feels his twoness, -- an American, a Negro; two souls, two thoughts, two unreconciled strivings; two warring ideals in one dark body, whose dogged strength alone keeps it from being torn asunder.

The history of the American Negro is the history of this strife, -- this longing to attain self-conscious manhood, to merge his double self into a better and truer self.

In the days of bondage they thought to see in one divine event the end of all doubt and disappointment; Slavery was indeed the sum of all villainies, the cause of all sorrow, the root of all prejudice; Emancipation was the key to a promised land of sweeter beauty than ever stretched before the eyes of wearied Israelites. ...

Refrain:

Oh, Nobody knows
The trouble I've seen.
Nobody knows but Jesus.
Nobody knows
The trouble I've seen.
Glory Hallelujah!

Please prepare a pen and paper. Write down if there's anything that leads you to wonder and/or reflect on after watching the three video excerpts from the Souls of Black Folk. If you are comfortable to share them with others/or with Ha Na only, please send it to the minister in email.

Music: **A Great Camp-Meeting in the Promised Land**



[\[On the meaning of the bar of music\]](#)

<https://youtu.be/yM7zbPKggVE>

Refrain:

Oh walk togedder, childron
Dont yer get weary,
Walk togedder, childron,
Dont yer get weary,
Dere's a great camp-meetin' in de Promised Land.

Video # 3: CNN: "I Realized I was Black"

An excerpt from 'Souls of Black Folk'

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mRsXxeL7fic>

"It is in the early days of rollicking boyhood that the revelation first bursts upon one, all in a day, as it were. I remember well when the shadow swept across me. I was a little

thing, away up in the hills of New England, where the dark Housatonic winds between Hoosac and Taghkanic to the sea. In a wee wooden schoolhouse, something put it into the boys' and girls' heads to buy gorgeous visiting- cards -- ten cents a package -- and exchange. The exchange was merry, till one girl, a tall newcomer, refused my card, -- refused it peremptorily, with a glance. Then it dawned upon me with a certain suddenness that I was different from the others; or like, mayhap, in heart and life and longing, but shut out from their world by a vast veil."

Prayers of the People: MV 79 ***Spirit, Open My Heart***

March: Lamenting human rights abuses faced by those of African descent

For each day, please name specific human rights violations related to each intercession. If you are sharing prayers on social media, include the hashtags #AfricanDescent, #UCCan, #UCC.

We recognize that the human rights of people of African descent need to be protected and promoted. We lament that the human rights of African descendant people have been abused by **(Please find the prayer circle chart at the end of the package.)**

Bright Shining Christ,
There is much for Black and Brown bodies to dread, here, in the Americas.
The trauma of the transatlantic slave trade
 lives in our bodies.
The legacy of enslavement
 lives in our systems.

**But the thin gospel of oppression
 could die in our worship.**

if we choose to shine bravely, reflecting your glory,
if we choose to reject the lies of racism and White supremacy,
if we choose to dance...

**make music ...
share pain ...
spread joy ...
wake up and be magic.**

We can choose to fight for a better society, and
we can remember that
**we are of the earth and of the stardust,
we are precious, loved, and called to shine bright,
like the stars we are made of and the Child that we follow.**

**Help us to make good choices.
Help us to shine brightly.
Amen.**

And we continue in prayer saying the words of Jesus... (The Lord's Prayer)

"Spirit, Open My Heart" (MV 79, v.3)

Music: **Steal Away**

<https://youtu.be/Wo0AOf9b6fU>

Refrain:

Steal away, steal away,
Steal away to Jesus!
Steal away, steal away home,
I ain't got long to stay here.
My Lord calls me,
He calls me by thunder,
The trumpet sounds within my soul,
I ain't got long to stay here.

Refrain:

Green trees are bending,
Poor sinner stands atrembling,
The trumpet sounds within my soul
I ain't got long to stay here.

Refrain:

Tombstones are bursting,
Poor sinners stands atrembling,
The trumpet sounds within my soul,
I ain't got long to stay here.

Blessing and Sending Out

The amazing grace of our teacher, Jesus Christ
The extravagant love of God
And the intimate friendship of the Holy Spirit
Be with you.

Hymn: **VU 105 Dust and Ashes** <https://youtu.be/XwFnsnNvBbc>

28 - Feb		Correctional officers who protect the dignity of people
01-Mar	Zero Discrimination Day (UNAIDS)	Micro-aggressions and denial of anti-Black racism
02-Mar		Teaching false histories of African-descendant people
03-Mar	World Wildlife Day	Hunters and poachers who destroy natural habitats
04-Mar		Juvenile arrests and over-sentencing
05-Mar		Eliminating the right to vote and access to voting polls
06-Mar		Food insecurity
07-Mar		Stereotyping and name-calling