

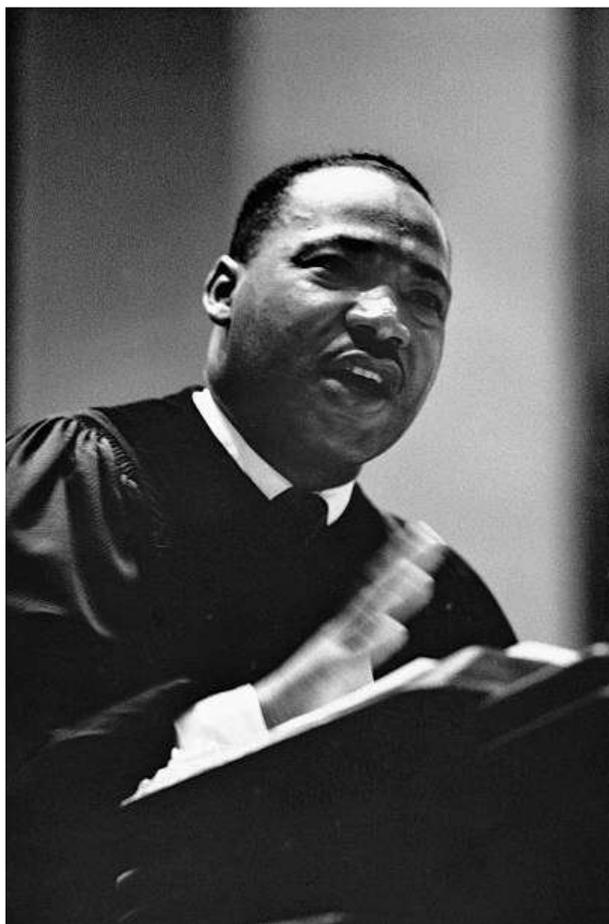
A PRESBYTERY OF EASTERN VIRGINIA GATHERING

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE AND MINISTRY

OF

THE REV. DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

“Shifting Priorities to Create the Beloved Community: It Starts with Me”



“If the church does not recapture its prophetic zeal, it will become an irrelevant social club without moral or spiritual authority.”

— *Martin Luther King, Jr.*

SUNDAY, JANUARY 16, 2022

4:00 P.M.

THE ORDER OF SERVICE

Prelude "We Shall Overcome" (arr. David Gale)
Dr. Matthew N. Russell, Piano

Greetings The Reverend Elizabeth "Liza" Hendricks
General Presbyter, Presbytery of Eastern Virginia

Call to Worship

L: Sisters and brothers, rejoice!
We live sustained by God's presence and love.
P: Thanks be to God.
L: As we mourn the wounds of God's children,
P: God weeps with us.
L: As we give thanks for brothers and sisters who have lived in faith,
P: God gives thanks with us.
L: As we struggle for justice,
P: God strives with us.
L: As we work to build the beloved community,
P: God works with us.
L: As we offer our gifts to all and for all,
P: God blesses us.
L: Sisters and brothers, rejoice!
P: Sustained by God's presence and love we worship God!

Prayer The Reverend Dr. Helen Bessent Byrd

Music "Couldn't Hear Nobody Pray" (arr. Harry T. Burleigh)
Ms. Amber Garrett, Soprano

Call to Offering The Reverend Veronica M. Thomas

<https://abundant.co/peva/mlkoffering>



Prayer of Dedication

Call to Confession

The Reverend Gillian Weighton

Prayer of Confession

Holy and merciful God, we have not loved you with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength and our neighbor as ourselves. We have condemned racial injustice in our pronouncements, yet we cling to the privileges derived from social inequities. All too often, we are blind to our complicity in maintaining systems of oppression and deferring the hopes and dreams of the oppressed for freedom. We have valued only those who look and sound like ourselves. We have laughed at jokes that demean others. Give us the courage to name our sins and the strength to claim responsibility for our actions. Give us the grace to pay the price for changing our behavior, so that justice may be done on earth as in heaven. Through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Scriptures:

The Reverend Dr. Lawrence L. Willis

Old Testament: Amos 5:21-24

New Testament: Matthew 25:31-46

Speaker "The Courage to Be" The Reverend Boone Clayton

Speaker "An Irresistible Call!" Elder Carol Bayma

Music "Over My Head, I Hear Music in the Air" (arr. Uzee Brown, Jr.)
Ms. Amber Garrett, Soprano

Speaker "Disruption & Discomfort:
Settling into God's Call for the Church." Mrs. Amanda M. Pine

Speaker "Intersection" Elder Roxie O. Holder

Litany of Commitment

The Reverend Dr. Wilbur Douglass

Martin Luther King, Jr. had a dream for a more just and equal society, that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed.

And while the ideals of justice and freedom and the belief that all are created equal in the eyes of God are noble principles, they are hollow and empty unless they become the personal possession of each one of us.

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent. I will struggle with myself. I will not rest until the dream of justice and freedom becomes my personal dream. I must realize that I am not an innocent bystander. I can help realize the dream by my action or delay it by my inaction.

Martin's dream of a day when people of all races and nations, even the offspring of enslaved people and former enslavers, can sit at table as family members and find ways of transforming their differences into assets. That was Martin's dream! What is your dream?

My dream is that one day soon I will find a way to stop just celebrating the dream of Martin King and start living it. It must become a part of my daily living or nothing much will change.

The dream is not about an ideal world; it is about the real world. Martin King's poetic refrain, "I have a dream," is a call for us to remember the real world where injustice abounds.

When I am in the shelter of my home, I will remember the homeless. When I eat, I will remember the hungry. When I feel secure, I will remember the insecure. When I witness the tyranny of oppression and voter suppression, I will remember that it will not stop unless I stop it. When I see manifest injustice, I will "put feet to faith, hands to hope, and legs to love."

Music "We Shall Overcome" (arr. Dan Musselman)
Dr. Matthew N. Russell, Piano

Benediction The Reverend Julie A. Sterling

Postlude "Lift Every Voice and Sing" (arr. John G. Barr)
Dr. Matthew N. Russell, Organ

Liturgy paraphrased and expanded from Presbyterian Peacemaking Program's "Martin Luther King Jr. Day Worship Resources."