



DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.'S BIRTHDAY (Beloved Community Day)

MUSIC & WORSHIP RESOURCES

Sunday, January 20, 2008

Pierre Walker, Guest Lectionary Liturgist
Fellowship Baptist Church, Chicago, IL

Worship Planning Notes

Quotations from Dr. King can be used on bulletin covers, in artwork, in sermons, or in prayers and litanies. Some quotes are provided below. Worship leaders can also use video clips in the worship service from the excellent PBS documentary on the last five years of Dr. King's Life, *The American Experience: The Citizen King*. The DVD or VHS tape can be purchased online at <http://www.shoppbs.org/home/index.jsp> accessed 20 October 20 2007

Also see the additional recommendations at the end of this worship design (#13) before the Cites section.

1. Litany

Leader: Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s greatness was anchored in his desire to serve, rooted in his obedience to his call, and guided by his strength to love. Today, we celebrate Dr. King's personal sacrifice, and we recommit ourselves to his vision for a peaceful world founded on the powerful principles of love, nonviolence, and economic and social justice for the entire human family.

People: **May we nurture Dr. King's dream, plant it on the hearts and minds of our children, and live out its true meaning in our daily lives.**

Leader: May we, in the spirit of Dr. King, put on the whole armor of God and stand against the unjust actions and unfair policies of oppressive governments; join with our brothers and sisters to expose and reject all false teachings, regardless of their age or institutional cloak; and create new visions for our people.

People: **Dr. King's faith enabled him to overcome valley experiences while maintaining mountaintop hopes. Likewise, may we work to transform our**

lives and renew our minds, so that our faith will lead us through our desolate times to heights higher than the reach of spirits of despair, defeat, and unbelief.

Leader: May we too learn to love with a perfect love, forgive with a healing spirit, and trust and follow the orders of God without falling prey to the spirit of double mindedness.

People: **May the teachings of Dr. King and the sinless life of Christ empower us to reject violence in all forms; in our families, homes, relationships, churches, schools, communities; and on every battlefield.**

Leader: May Dr. King's spirit infuse us with courage, discipline us with restraint, and equip us with hope.

People: **May we, as the beneficiaries of Dr. King's drum major leadership, understand that we are responsible for the stewardship of the earth and all that is within it; and that God, one day, will require us to give an accounting.**

Leader: May we not be afraid to seek the guidance of God, incline the ear of the Holy Spirit, and employ the assistance of the angelic host to overcome those negative forces that birth war and not peace.

People: **May we, like Dr. King, act with boldness but walk with humility, knowing that it is the power and grace of God that directs our path and provides all victories.**

Leader: May we dream dreams that have not been dreamt, conquer fears yet to be born, and build communities yet to be conceived.

ALL: **We celebrate, commemorate, and honor the life and works of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., his family, and those who labored in the vineyard with them. We pray that our words will lift our own hearts and spur us to action, engage the disaffected, and enliven dry bones in broken communities to become shining lights of victory for this present generation and generations to come. Hear our Prayer, Oh God. Amen and Amen.**

2. Hymn or Anthem

Hymn

(a) We Shall Overcome (I'll Be Alright). Traditional

Anthem

(b) Lift Every Voice and Sing. By James Weldon Johnson. Tune by John R. Johnson

Hymn

(c) The Battle Hymn of the Republic (Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory). By Julia Ward Howe.
Tune by William Steffe

3. Spirituals or Traditional Songs

Spirituals

(a) I Shall Not Be Moved.

(b) Oh, Freedom.

(c) I Couldn't Hear Nobody Pray.

(d) Walk Together Children. Arr. by Evelyn Simpson Curenton

4. Gospel Songs for Choirs, Ensembles, or Praise Teams

(a) I Don't Feel No Ways Tired. By James Cleveland

(b) I've Got a Testimony. By Tony Tidwell

(c) Stand. By Donnie McClurkin

(d) The Storm Is Passing Over. By Charles Tindley. Arr. by Donald Vails

5. Liturgical Dance Music

(a) Walk in Jerusalem, Just Like John (I Wanna Be Ready).

(b) God Has Smiled on Me. By Isaiah Jones, Jr.

6. Congregational Songs

(a) The Presence of the Lord Is Here. By Byron Cage

Youtube: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DpfNvZbNfUg>

(b) High Praise. By Judith Christie McAllister

(c) Revolution. By Kirk Franklin

(d) Everybody Clap Your Hands. By Joshua's Troop (JT3)

7. Offertory Song or Instrumental

(a) I Thank You Jesus. By Kenneth Morris

(b) He Has Done Great Things for Me. By Jesse Dixon

8. Song or Instrumental for the Period of Prayer

(a) Sweet Hour of Prayer. By William W. Walford

(b) Spirit of the Living God. By Daniel Iverson

9. Sermonic Selection

Have Thine Own Way Lord. By George Stebbins

10. Invitational Song or Instrumental

Instrumental

I Can Hear My Savior Calling (Where He Leads Me I Will Follow). By E. W. Blandy. Tune by John S. Norris

11. Benediction Song or Instrumental

Never Alone. Arr. by Robert O. Hoffelt

12. Audio Visual Suggestions

For churches and other groups with screens - Use images from famous speeches given by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. These can be found by searching the phrase “speeches of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.” on www.google.com.

13. Other Recommendations

- (a) Have testimonies and reflections from persons who participated in the Civil Rights Movement.
- (b) On Martin Luther King, Jr. Day congregations also can acknowledge the innovative leadership and courageous protests of female African American freedom fighters and Civil Rights activists, such as Jarena Lee, Sojourner Truth, Ella Baker, Fannie Lou Hamer, and Rosa Parks. The following are two excellent resources for biographical information on and quotations from African American women who have struggled for justice and peace:

Ed. Marcia Y. Riggs. Can I Get a Witness? Prophetic Religious Voices of African American Women: An Anthology. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 1997.

Rosetta E. Ross. Witnessing and Testifying: Black Women, Religion, and Civil Rights. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press. 2003.

- (c) Since there are numerous quotations from Dr. King’s sermons and speeches, only a few are listed below that can be used in various ways in worship services and on other occasions. For additional information for use in worship services and other celebrations, also see the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (Beloved Community Day) material in the Cultural Resource section of this lectionary.

- (1) “This hour in history needs a dedicated circle of transformed nonconformists...dangerous passions of pride, hatred, and selfishness are enthroned in our lives; truth lies prostrate on the rugged hills of nameless Calvaries; and men do reverence before false gods of nationalism and materialism. The saving of our world from pending doom will come, not through the complacent adjustment of the conforming majority, but through the creative maladjustment of a nonconforming minority.”

From Dr. King's sermon "Transformed Nonconformist," in Martin Luther King, Jr., Strength to Love. Philadelphia, PA: Fortress Press, 1963, p 27.

- (2) "...All life is interrelated. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality; tied in a single garment of destiny....As long as there is poverty in this world no man can be totally rich even if he has a billion dollars. As long as diseases are rampant and millions of people cannot expect to live more than twenty or thirty years, no man can be totally healthy, even if he just got a clean bill of health from the finest clinic in America."

From Dr. King's speech "The American Dream." Ed. James M. Washington. A Testament of Hope: The Essential Writings and Speeches of Martin Luther King, Jr. San Francisco, CA: Harper, 1986, p 210.

- (3) "One day we must come to see that the whole Jericho road must be transformed so that men and women will not be constantly beaten and robbed as they make their journey on life's highway. True compassion is more than flinging a coin to a beggar; it is not haphazard and superficial. It comes to see that an edifice which produces beggars needs restructuring."

From Dr. King's speech "A Time to Break Silence." Ed. James M. Washington. A Testament of Hope: The Essential Writings and Speeches of Martin Luther King, Jr. San Francisco, CA: Harper, 1986, p 24.

- (4) "In the midst of blatant injustices inflicted upon the Negro, I have watched white churches stand on the sideline and merely mouth pious irrelevancies and sanctimonious trivialities. In the midst of a mighty struggle to rid our nation of racial and economic injustice, I have heard so many ministers say, 'Those are social issues with which the gospel has no real concern,' and I have watched so many churches commit themselves to a completely otherworldly religion which made a strange distinction between body and soul, the sacred and the secular."

From Dr. King's "Letter from Birmingham City Jail." Ed. James M. Washington. A Testament of Hope: The Essential Writings and Speeches of Martin Luther King, Jr. San Francisco, CA: Harper, 1986, p 299.

Cites and Additional Information for Music and Material Listed

1. Litany – This litany was written by Ralph Wheeler, Esq., Oakland, CA. Used with permission.

2. Hymn or Anthem

Hymn

(a) We Shall Overcome (I'll Be Alright). Traditional

Location:

African American Heritage Hymnal. Chicago, IL: GIA Publications, 2001. #542

African Methodist Episcopal Church Hymnal. Nashville, TN: The African Methodist Episcopal Church, (2000) sixth printing, 2004. #348

Lead Me, Guide Me: The African American Catholic Hymnal. Chicago, IL: GIA Publications, 1987. #297

Anthem

(b) Lift Every Voice and Sing. By James Weldon Johnson. Tune by John R. Johnson

Location:

African American Heritage Hymnal. #540

African Methodist Episcopal Church Hymnal. #571

Lead Me, Guide Me: The African American Catholic Hymnal. #291

The Presbyterian Hymnal Hymns, Psalms, and Spiritual Songs. Louisville, KY: Westminster/John Knox Press, 1990. #563

Hymn

(c) The Battle Hymn of the Republic (Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory). By Julia Ward Howe. Tune by William Steffe

Location:

African American Heritage Hymnal. #490

African Methodist Episcopal Church Hymnal. #572

Lead Me, Guide Me: The African American Catholic Hymnal. #6

3. Spirituals or Traditional Songs

Spirituals

(a) I Shall Not Be Moved.

Location:

African American Heritage Hymnal. #479

Lead Me, Guide Me: The African American Catholic Hymnal. #276

(b) Oh, Freedom.

Location:

African American Heritage Hymnal. #545

Lead Me, Guide Me: The African American Catholic Hymnal. #298

(c) I Couldn't Hear Nobody Pray.

Location:

African American Heritage Hymnal. #487

African Methodist Episcopal Church Hymnal. #314

Gospel Pearls. Nashville, TN: Sunday School Publishing Board, National Baptist Convention USA, 1921. #153

Lead Me, Guide Me: The African American Catholic Hymnal. #210

(d) Walk Together Children. Arr. by Evelyn Simpson Curenton

Location:

African American Heritage Hymnal. #541

4. Gospel Songs for Choirs, Ensembles, or Praise Teams

(a) I Don't Feel No Ways Tired. By James Cleveland

Location:

I Don't Feel No ways Tired. Jackson, MS: 601 Music, 1997.

African American Heritage Hymnal. #414

Lead Me, Guide Me: The African American Catholic Hymnal. #159

NTIME MUSIC COMPANY

4913 Albemarle Road #103

Charlotte, NC 28205

Phone: 704-531-8961

Online location: www.ntimemusic.com

(b) I've Got a Testimony. By Tony Tidwell

Location:

A.A.R.C. (African American Religious Connection) Mass Choir, and Clay Evans.

I've Got a Testimony. Chicago, IL: Meek Records, 1995.

NTIME MUSIC COMPANY

Phone: 704-531-8961

Online location: www.ntimemusic.com

(c) Stand. By Donnie McClurkin

Location:

Donnie McClurkin. Burbank, CA: Warner Alliance, 1996.

NTIME MUSIC COMPANY

Phone: 704-531-8961

Online location: www.ntimemusic.com

(d) The Storm Is Passing Over. By Charles Tindley. Arr. by Donald Vails

Location:

Clark, Mattie Moss, James Cleveland, Charles A. Craig, Lucylle Lemon, Elma Hendrix Parham, Charles Nicks, Harold Smith, Donald Vails, and Thomas Whitfield. Detroit Remembers (the Legacy, the Music, the Love). Southfield, MI: Sound of Gospel, 2002.

African American Heritage Hymnal. #427

NTIME MUSIC COMPANY

Phone: 704-531-8961

Online location: www.ntimemusic.com

5. Liturgical Dance Music

(a) Walk in Jerusalem, Just Like John (I Wanna Be Ready).

Location:

African American Heritage Hymnal. #600

African Methodist Episcopal Church Hymnal. #510

(b) God Has Smiled on Me. By Isaiah Jones, Jr.

Location:

Voices of Tabernacle (Musical group), and James Cleveland. God Has Smiled on Me. Newark, NJ: Savoy, 1974.

African American Heritage Hymnal. #152

Lead Me, Guide Me: The African American Catholic Hymnal. #185

NTIME MUSIC COMPANY

Phone: 704-531-8961

Online location: www.ntimemusic.com

6. Congregational Songs

(a) The Presence of the Lord Is Here. By Byron Cage

Location:

Byron Cage: The Prince of Praise. Inglewood, CA: Gospocentric Records, 2003.

NTIME MUSIC COMPANY

Phone: 704-531-8961

Online location: www.ntimemusic.com

(b) High Praise. By Judith Christie McAllister

Location:

Essence of Praise and Worship-- Live. Franklin, TN: Alliant Music Group, 2005.

NTIME MUSIC COMPANY

Phone: 704-531-8961

Online location: www.ntimemusic.com

(c) Revolution. By Kirk Franklin

Location:

The Nu Nation Project. Inglewood, CA: Gospocentric, 1998.

(d) Everybody Clap Your Hands. By Joshua's Troop (JT 3)

Location:

JT3 Joshua's Troop Live. Nashville, TN: New Haven Records, 2007.

7. Offertory Song or Instrumental

(a) I Thank You Jesus. By Kenneth Morris

Location:

African American Heritage Hymnal. #532

Lyrics at <http://www.gospellyricsource.com/9875-lyrics>

(b) He Has Done Great Things for Me. By Jesse Dixon

Location:

Abbington, James. 46 More Hidden Treasures from the African American Heritage Hymnal. Chicago, IL: GIA Publications, 2007.

African American Heritage Hymnal. #507

Lead Me, Guide Me: The African American Catholic Hymnal. #289

NTIME MUSIC COMPANY

Phone: 704-531-8961

Online location: www.ntimemusic.com

8. Song or Instrumental for the Period of Prayer

(a) Sweet Hour of Prayer. By William W. Walford.

Location:

African American Heritage Hymnal. #442

African Methodist Episcopal Church Hymnal. #307

Gospel Pearls. #15

Lead Me, Guide Me: The African American Catholic Hymnal. #212

Lyrics at http://library.timelesstruths.org/music/Sweet_Hour_of_Prayer/

(b) Spirit of the Living God. By Daniel Iverson.

Location:

African American Heritage Hymnal. #320

Lead Me, Guide Me: The African American Catholic Hymnal. #126

The Presbyterian Hymnal. #322

9. Sermonic Selection

Have Thine Own Way Lord. By George Stebbins

Location:

African American Heritage Hymnal. #449

African Methodist Episcopal Church Hymnal. #345

Gospel Pearls. #90

10. Invitational Song or Instrumental

Instrumental

I Can Hear My Savior Calling (Where He Leads Me, I Will Follow). By E. W. Blandy. Tune by John S. Norris

Location:

African American Heritage Hymnal. #550

African Methodist Episcopal Church Hymnal. #237

Lead Me, Guide Me: The African American Catholic Hymnal. #120

11. Benediction Song or Instrumental

Never Alone. Arr. by Robert O. Hoffelt

Location:

African American Heritage Hymnal. #310

African Methodist Episcopal Church Hymnal. #441

Gospel Pearls. #33