

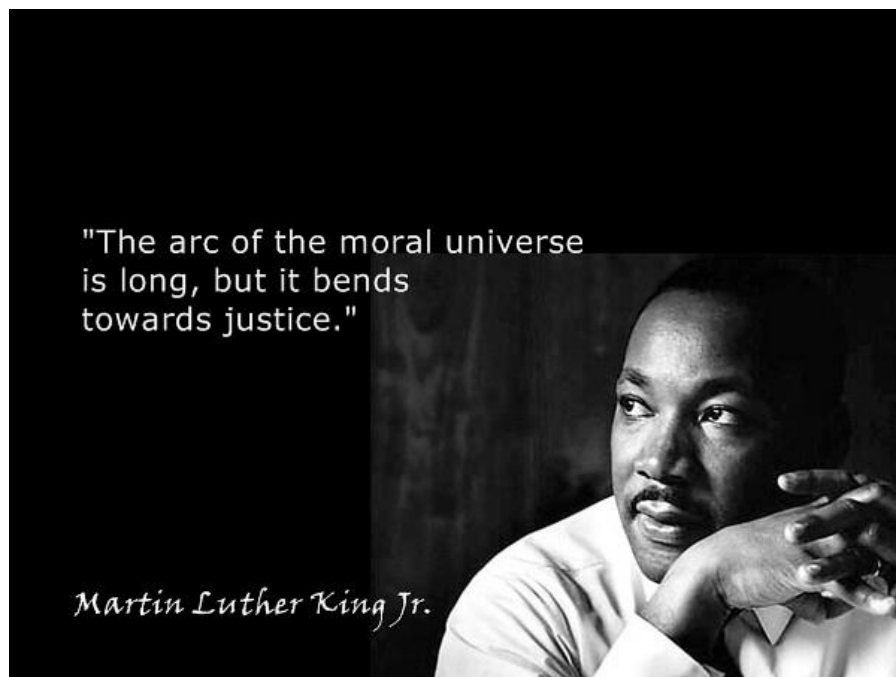


San Francisco Interfaith Council

*Celebrating our diverse faiths & spiritual traditions
Bringing people together to build understanding
Serving our community*

Virtual Interfaith Prayer Service Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Commemoration

"Toward Justice"



**Monday, January 17, 2022 at 11:00 am
via Zoom**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0ufu2uqD0oG902dFrRgTp6IjS6b1dBdLRh>

Sponsored by the San Francisco Interfaith Council

Welcoming Remarks

*Michael G. Pappas, Executive Director
San Francisco Interfaith Council*

Invocation and Spiritual Message

*Rev. Dr. Leroy E. Adams, Jr., Pastor
Providence Baptist Church
San Francisco Interfaith Council Board Member*

Musical Selection: "Lift Every Voice and Sing" (by James Weldon Johnson & John Rosamond Johnson)
Sung by Noah Griffin, Founder/Artistic Director, Cole Porter Society

Lift every voice and sing, till earth and heaven ring,
ring with the harmonies of liberty.
Let our rejoicing rise, high as the list'ning skies,
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us.
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us.
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
Let us march on till victory is won.

Excerpt from, "Letter from Birmingham Jail"
Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., April 16, 1963
*Read by Imam Abu Qadir Al-Amin, Resident Imam
San Francisco Muslim Community Center*

"I am cognizant of the interrelatedness of all communities and states. I cannot sit idly by in Atlanta and not be concerned about what happens in Birmingham. Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly. Never again can we afford to live with the narrow, provincial "outside agitator" idea. Anyone who lives inside the United States can never be considered an outsider anywhere within its bounds... Now is the time to make real the promise of democracy and transform our pending national elegy into a creative psalm of brotherhood. Now is the time to lift our national policy from the quicksand of racial injustice to the solid rock of human dignity."

Musical Selection: "Lift Every Voice and Sing" (by James Weldon Johnson & John Rosamond Johnson)
Sung by Noah Griffin, Founder/Artistic Director, Cole Porter Society

Stony the road we trod, bitter the chastening rod
felt in the days when hope unborn had died;
yet with a steady beat, have not our weary feet
come to the place for which our fathers sighed?
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered
We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered,
out of the gloomy past, till now we stand at last
where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

Excerpt from, "Beyond Vietnam: A Time to Break Silence"
Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., April 4, 1967
*Read by Christina Jefferson
Jewish Community Relations Council Board Member
Congregation Sherith Israel Board of Trustees*

"This call for a world-wide fellowship that lifts neighborly concern beyond one's tribe, race, class and nation is in reality a call for an all-embracing and unconditional love for all men. This oft misunderstood and misinterpreted concept -- so readily dismissed by the Nietzsches of the world as a weak and

cowardly force -- has now become an absolute necessity for the survival of man. When I speak of love I am not speaking of some sentimental and weak response. I am speaking of that force which all of the great religions have seen as the supreme unifying principle of life. Love is somehow the key that unlocks the door, which leads to ultimate reality. This Hindu-Muslim-Christian-Jewish-Buddhist belief about ultimate reality is beautifully summed up in the first epistle of Saint John: 'Let us love one another; for love is God and everyone that loveth is born of God and knoweth God. He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love. If we love one another God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us.' "

Musical Selection: "Lift Every Voice and Sing" (by James Weldon Johnson & John Rosamond Johnson)
Sung by Noah Griffin, Founder/Artistic Director, Cole Porter Society

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears
thou who has brought us thus far on the way,
thou who by thy might led us into the light,
keep us forever on the path, we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places,, oh God where we met thee;
lest our heart drunk with the wine of the world, we forget thee;
shadowed beneath thy hand.
may we forever stand,
true to our God, true to our native land.

Excerpt from, "I Have A Dream Speech"
Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., August 28, 1963
Read by Deacon Miguel Bustos
Senior Director, Center for Social Justice at GLIDE

I say to you today, my friends, so even though we face the difficulties of today and tomorrow, I still have a dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American dream. I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: "We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal." I have a dream that one day on the red hills of Georgia the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slave owners will be able to sit down together at the table of brotherhood. I have a dream that one day even the state of Mississippi, a state sweltering with the heat of injustice, sweltering with the heat of oppression, will be transformed into an oasis of freedom and justice. I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character. I have a dream today.

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Excerpt from, "I Have A Dream Speech"
Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., August 28, 1963
Read by Camille Pating
Buddhist Church of San Francisco

I have a dream that one day, down in Alabama, with its vicious racists, with its governor having his lips dripping with the words of interposition and nullification; one day right there in Alabama, little black boys and black girls will be able to join hands with little white boys and white girls as sisters and

brothers. I have a dream today. I have a dream that one day every valley shall be exalted, every hill and mountain shall be made low, the rough places will be made plain, and the crooked places will be made straight, and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together. This is our hope. This is the faith that I go back to the South with. With this faith we will be able to hew out of the mountain of despair a stone of hope. With this faith we will be able to transform the jangling discords of our nation into a beautiful symphony of brotherhood. With this faith we will be able to work together, to pray together, to struggle together, to go to jail together, to stand up for freedom together, knowing that we will be free one day. This will be the day when all of God's children will be able to sing with a new meaning, "My country, 'tis of thee, sweet land of liberty, of thee I sing. Land where my fathers died, land of the pilgrim's pride, from every mountainside, let freedom ring."

MLK Day Civic Leader Addresses

*The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives*

*The Honorable London N. Breed
Mayor, City and County of San Francisco*

Musical Selection/Video Montage: "This Is My Song" (to the melody of Finlandia) Lyrics by Lloyd Stone
Sung by Noah Griffin, Founder/Artistic Director, Cole Porter Society

This is my song, Oh God of all the nations,
A song of peace for lands afar and mine.
This is my home, the country where my heart is;
Here are my hopes, my dreams, my sacred shrine.
But other hearts in other lands are beating,
With hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.

Benediction

*Rev. Dr. Amos C. Brown, Senior Pastor, Third Baptist Church
President, San Francisco NAACP*

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