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

“Today’s Youth ... Tomorrow’s Leaders”

Yerba Buena Gardens Esplanade
Monday, January 16, 2017

Sponsored by the San Francisco Interfaith Council

With the Support of:

MJM Management Group/Yerba Buena Gardens Festival
The Tabernacle Community Development Corporation
Welcome
Deacon G.L. Hodge, Chair, San Francisco Interfaith Council

Invocation
Rabbi Beth Singer, Senior Rabbi
Congregation Emanu-El

Musical Refrain
Juanita Hodge, Providence Baptist Church

We shall overcome; We shall overcome; We shall overcome some day! Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe, We shall overcome some day!

Excerpt from Press Conference at Santa Rita Jail
Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., December 14, 1967
Read by Julia Pappas representing the Greek Orthodox faith tradition

“There can be no justice without peace and there can be no peace without justice ... For I believe absolutely that justice is indivisible and injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere ... Conscience asks the question – is it right?”

Excerpt from “Letter from Birmingham Jail”
Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., April 16, 1963
Read by Ali Shaheed representing the Muslim faith tradition

“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. 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 Refrain
Juanita Hodge, Providence Baptist Church

We’ll walk hand in hand; We’ll walk hand in hand; We’ll walk hand in hand some day! Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe, We’ll walk hand in hand some day!

Excerpt from “Letter from Birmingham Jail”
Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., April 16, 1963
Read by Patrick Dilworth representing the Christian faith tradition

"I must confess that over the past few years I have been gravely disappointed with the white moderate. I have almost reached the regrettable conclusion that the Negro’s great stumbling block in his stride toward freedom is ... the white moderate, who is more devoted to 'order' than to justice; who prefers a negative peace which is the absence of tension ... who constantly says: 'I agree with you in the goal you seek, but I cannot agree with your methods of direct action'; who paternalistically believes he can set the timetable for another man's freedom; who lives by a mythical concept of time and who constantly advises the Negro to wait for a 'more convenient season.' Shallow under-
standing from people of good will is more frustrating than absolute misunderstanding from people of ill will. Lukewarm acceptance is much more bewildering than outright rejection.”

Excerpt from “Beyond Vietnam: A Time to Break Silence”  
Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., April 4, 1967  
Read by Grace Pating representing the Buddhist faith tradition

“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 Refrain

Juanita Hodge, Providence Baptist Church

We shall all be free; We shall all be free; We shall all be free some day! Deep in my heart, I do believe, We shall all be free some day!

Excerpt from “I Have A Dream Speech”  
Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., August 28, 1963  
Read by Jonath Por...
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."

Poetry Reading - "Don’t Hate"
RaLani N. Jackson, E.R. Taylor Elementary School
Providence Baptist Church

Introduction of Honorees
Deacon G.L. Hodge, Chair and Rita R. Semel, Past Chair
San Francisco Interfaith Council

Carletta Jackson-Lane, J.D., Executive Director
Sojourner Truth Foster Family Service Agency

Matti Scott, Founder and Executive Director
Healing 4 Our Families & Our Nation

Elizabeth Torres, Administrative Advisor
Healing 4 Our Families & Our Nation

Introduction of Public Officials
Michael G. Pappas, M.Div.
Executive Director, San Francisco Interfaith Council

Democratic Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Nancy Pelosi

Closing Prayer
Rev. Dr. Amos C. Brown, Pastor, Third Baptist Church
President, San Francisco NAACP

Invitation to MLK Program
Aaron Grizzell, Executive Director
Northern California Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Foundation

Final Refrain
Juanita Hodge, Providence Baptist Church

We shall overcome; We shall overcome; We shall overcome some day! Oh, deep in my heart, I do
believe, We shall overcome some day!

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