

What is your Dream?

36th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration

January 17, 2022

“I Have A Dream”

by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Let us not wallow in the valley of despair. I say to you today, my friends, that 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 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.

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."

And when this happens, When we allow freedom to ring, when we let it ring from every village and every hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up that day when all of God's children, black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old Negro spiritual,

"Free at last! free at last!
thank God Almighty, we are free at last!"

LITANY: IN THE NAME OF FREEDOM

LEADER: In the grand order of the universe, our Lord God wisely has chosen men and women to serve Him in each era. Such a servant of our Lord God was Martin Luther King, Jr., whose birth we now commemorate. We are thankful for the life of this 20th century prophet of freedom, who joined the prophets of history in the cry:

CONGREGATION: In the name of freedom, let my people go.

LEADER: Martin Luther King, Jr., envisioned the ultimate freedom: the freedom achieved in struggle; the freedom reached in brotherhood; the freedom fired by the dream of a man; the freedom inspired by the lot of a people; the freedom free of hate; the freedom full of love.

CONGREGATION: IN THE NAME OF THIS FREEDOM OF LOVE, LET MY PEOPLE GO.

LEADER: He came into our lives when the yearning of people to be free had turned their attention to justice. For justice, and only justice, we shall follow, that we may live and inherit the land which the Lord our God gives us.

CONGREGATION: IN THE NAME OF JUSTICE, LET MY PEOPLE GO.

LEADER: He reminded us that the spirit of man soars from depths of despair with the strength and belief in the promise of the Creator of the universe. We know and testify: The Lord loves justice; He will not forsake his saints.

CONGREGATION: IN THE NAME OF THE LORD, LET MY PEOPLE GO.

LEADER: The journey went to Montgomery, to affirm human dignity and courage; to Birmingham, to defeat the sickness of separating human life; to Selma, to ensure the equality of people in human affairs; to a hundred nameless communities, to remove painful shackles of oppression and light joyous torches of liberty

CONGREGATION: IN THE NAME OF THIS JOURNEY TOWARD FREEDOM, LET MY PEOPLE GO.

LEADER: When war was encountered, the leader of this journey sang with the people: "Ain't gonna study war no more." When violence was met, he spurned it and said: "Hate is too great a burden to bear."

CONGREGATION: IN THE NAME OF PEACE, AND LOVE, LET MY PEOPLE GO.

LEADER: And even when death was confronted, as the journey reached Memphis, he could say in final triumph, that in life he had found something worth dying for, something worth life itself – the Promised Land, a land of freedom with justice.

CONGREGATION: IN THE NAME OF THE PROMISED LAND, LET MY PEOPLE GO.

LEADER: So we are thankful that the Spirit of the Lord anointed a man who preached good news to the poor, who rejected segregation and embraced liberation, who prophesied the greatness of his people in struggle for the deliverance of all people.

CONGREGATION: IN THE NAME OF THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD, LET MY PEOPLE GO.

LEADER: We praise the Lord God for sending us a man of peace who resisted tyranny, a man of nonviolence who fought for liberty, a man of God who worked for people. Thank you, Lord, for Martin Luther King, Jr., who inspired us with his dream, who walked into our lives and our hearts with his marches for justice, who demanded freedom with great courage in the face of grave danger, and who has now passed on into your Promised Land. Thank you for his noble legacy to continue the journey to that land here on earth, in life for all people. Thank you, God; You have sent us one who now causes us to say:

ALL: IN THE NAME OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.,
LET MY PEOPLE GO.

This is the official litany of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Social Change; prepared and distributed by the Center for use in commemorative services. Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Social Change, Atlanta, Ga.



PROGRAM

INTRODUCTION

Fred Blankenship
WSB-TV

WHAT IS YOUR DREAM?

WELCOME
Jeriene Grimes
President Cobb NAACP

NATIONAL ANTHEM

Sgt. Marcus White
Cobb Sheriff's Office

ENTERTAINMENT

ETD Dance Studio

GREETINGS

Lisa Cupid
Cobb Commission Chairwoman

LIFT LIFT EVERY VOICE

Kierra Sheard
Gospel Recording Artist

REFLECTIONS

Matthew Phillips
Mabry Middle School

GREETINGS

Al Thurman
Mayor of Powder Springs

Rod McLean

VP & GM Air Mobility Maritime Missions, Lockheed

Tommy Allegood
Mayor of Acworth

ENTERTAINMENT

Morgan Kennedy
Cobb County's Outstanding Teen 2022

REFLECTIONS

Austin Broughton

LIVING THE DREAM AWARD PRESENTATION

ENTERTAINMENT

Myrna Clayton

REFLECTIONS

Helena Phillips
Davis Elementary School

GREETINGS
Ollie Clemons
Mayor of Austell

Derek Norton
Mayor of Smyrna

ENTERTAINMENT
Jayda Roach
Pebblebrook High School

GREETINGS
U.S. Senator John Ossoff

Sharon Mason
President & CEO of Cobb Chamber

OFFICIAL LITANY OF MLK CELEBRATION
Cobb County 4-H Program

ENTERTAINMENT
Derek Pintozzi
Allatoona High School

CLOSING

**“Never succumb to the
temptation of bitterness.”**

~ Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Living the Dream Award Recipients

2004 Hester Johnson

2005 Betty Siegel

2006 Deane Bonner

2007 Don Johnson

2008 David Hankerson

2009 Doc Holliday

2010 JoAnne Thomas

2011 Lee Rhyant and Sam Olens

2012 Rev. Kenneth Marcus

2013 Shan Cooper and Sammy Foster

2014 Dr. Emily Lembeck and Willie Davis

2015 Alisha Thomas Morgan and Rev. Walter Moon

2016 Jeanie M. Carter and Cobb Chapter of SCLC

2017 Mary Ward Cater and Louis Walker

2018 Monica Delancey and David Connell

2019 Sharon Hill and Nic & Princess Starr

2020 Geneva Vanderhorst and Kit Cummings

2021 Kim Gresh

Lift Every Voice And Sing

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.

Stony the road we trod, Bitter the chast'ning 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
have been watered;
We have come, treading our path thro'
the blood of the slaughtered,
Out from the gloomy past, Till now we stand at last
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.
God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,
Thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;
Thou who hast by Thy might, led us into the light,
Keep us forever in the path, we pray.

Lest our feet stray from the places, Our God,
where we met Thee,
Lest our hearts, 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.



SPECIAL THANKS

MANY THANKS TO ALL WHO HELPED MAKE THIS EVENT A SUCCESS!

EVENT SPONSORS

Cobb County Government
Cobb County NAACP

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Jennie T. Anderson Theatre
Fred Blankenship and WSB-TV
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Lockheed Martin Aeronautics Co.
Compton Elementary School
Cobb Sheriff's Office
Austin Broughton
Myrna Clayton
Morgan Kennedy
Jayda Roach
Helena Philips
Matthew Phillips
Derek Pintozzi
Kierra Sheard
Sgt. Marcus White, Cobb County Sheriff's Office
Parents, Performers, Volunteers and Community

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Ross Cavitt
Jonathan Davis
Robby Edwards
Wendy Goss
Jeriene B. Grimes
Latonia P. Hines
Tanya Lafleur
AikWah Leow

Cobb County 4-H Program

(Shubham Badve, Phebe Burroughs-Thebault, Summer Burroughs-Thebault, Jazzlyn Currie, Aarsheya Gunjal, Venya Gunjal, Prayushi Padhi, Madison Parkmond, London Salter, Nk Uzoho, Nnayerem Uzoho)

ETD Dance Studio

(Taylor Hickman, Brielle Johnson, Mi'Caela King, Mikiyah Lewis, Brielle Marriott, Saniya Perryman, Madilyn Phinizy, Director Chan'nel Johnson and Choreographer Erin Smith)

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