
THE REVIVAL: TIME FOR A MORAL REVOLUTION OF VALUES

Service of Prayer, Commitment and Sending Forth

Sunday, April 3, 2016
3 o'clock in the afternoon
The Riverside Church in the City of New York

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Opening Song The Ebony Ecumenical Ensemble, Inc.

Call to Worship Rev. Michael Livingston, Executive Minister,
The Riverside Church

Invocation Rob Stephens,
Forward Together Moral Mondays Movement

The Revival: Time for a Moral Revolution of Values Video Fusion Films

Musical Selection Ms. Yara Allen, Theo-musicologist,
Repairers of the Breach

Litany Rev. Dr. Liz Theoharis,
Kairos Center for Religions, Rights & Social Justice

Leader: Martin Luther King said, "There comes a time when silence is betrayal. The truth must be told."

Congregation: And the truth is that more than 250,000 people die from poverty and the lack of education each year in the United States, that thousands die each year because of the lack of healthcare, including the denial of Medicaid expansion, that half of the United States is poor or low-income, and that millions of



children are homeless, lack adequate food and housing, and do not have quality education. There comes a time when silence is betrayal. The truth must be told.

Leader: The truth is that voting rights are being eroded 50 years after the passage of the Voting Rights Act, that systemic racism plagues America as extremists drum up bigotry and hatred, that in many communities it is more likely that teenagers will end up in prison than graduate from high school.

Congregation: There comes a time when silence is betrayal. The truth must be told.

Leader: Today we stand as truth-tellers witnessing to the pain and suffering caused by the injustices within our community and across this country. We gather to declare that we need a moral revival, a radical revolution of values. And we call on the prophets of old from the sacred texts of the world's religions who proclaimed:

Congregation: "This is what the Lord says: Do what is just and right. Rescue from the hand of the oppressor the one who has been robbed. Do no wrong or violence to the foreigner, the fatherless, or the widow, and do not shed innocent blood in this place." (Jeremiah 22:3)

Leader: "Doom to you who legislate evil, who make laws that make victims – laws that make misery for the poor, that rob my destitute people of dignity, exploiting defenseless widows, taking advantage of homeless children." (Isaiah 10:1-2)

Congregation: "All the workers you've exploited and cheated cry out for judgment. The groans of the workers you used and abused are a roar in the ears of God." (James 5:4)

Leader: "Arjuna, whenever righteousness is on the decline, unrighteousness is in the ascendant, then I am reincarnated. For the protection of the virtuous, for the extirpation of the evil-doers, and for establishing Dharma [righteousness] on a firm footing, I am born from age to age." (Bhagavad Gita, Chapter 4:7-8)

Congregation: “The believers, both men and women are in charge of and responsible for one another; they all enjoin the doing of what is right and forbid the doing of what is wrong...” (Qu’ran 9:71)

Leader: If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday. The Lord will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail. Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.

Congregation: **As with these sacred texts, we, too proclaim revival across this land as we sound the alarm and join hand in hand.**

Leader: We join voice with voice until all are heard and arm in arm until all are seen.

All: **Hallelujah, Thine the glory.
Hallelujah, Amen.
Hallelujah, Thine the glory.
Revive us again!**

Musical Selection

The Ebony Ecumenical Ensemble, Inc.

The Revival – Why the Time is Now!

Rev. Dr. James A. Forbes, Jr., *President, the Healing of the Nations Ministries and National Minister, Drum Major Institute, Senior Pastor Emeritus, The Riverside Church*

Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II, *President and Senior Lecturer, Repairers of the Breach, Architect, Forward Together Moral Mondays Movement, Pastor, Greenleaf Christian Church*

State of the Nation (via video)

Sister Simone Campbell, Executive Director,
NETWORK (via video)

Cries of the People

The Rev. Traci Blackmon, Executive Minister,
UCC Justice and Witness Ministries

“Make Them Hear You”

performed by Tshombe Selby,
accompanied by Sakura Myers

Words of Blessing and Sending Forth

Rev. Dr. Amy Butler (via video), Senior Pastor, The Riverside Church of New York
Rev. Dr. Sharon Watkins (via video) General Minister and President, Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ) and Chair, National Council of Churches in Christ
Rev. Derrick Harkins, Senior Vice President for Innovation in Public Programs, Union
Theological Seminary
Rev. Dr. Katharine Henderson, President, Auburn Theological Seminary
Rabbi Stephanie Kolin, Associate Rabbi, Central Synagogue

A Call for Revival and Laying on of Hands

Ms. Christian Peele and Ms. Alexa Donathin,
The Riverside Church

*Leader 1: Radical revolution of moral values
was the call of the prophets of old, the prophets of yesteryear
and must be the call of prophets right now, right here
Revival! Let us all sound the alarm
and join, hand in hand, voice with voice, arm and arm
Revival of our deepest values now!
must be our commitment and our cry*

*Leader 2: Why?
No nation, state, community, town or city can survive
unless our moral values we revive
God’s Spirit will convert, convict, consecrate
if we position ourselves at revivals gate
declaring “Lord we can no longer wait!”
Revival now, justice now, mercy now, it just can’t wait*

*Leader 1: Silence, said Martin, was betrayal,
then revival now must begin
And the Lord says to each
how to have revival that repairs the breach
Open our mouth and declare the word:
“until the pain and the voice of the broken are heard!”
We must cry aloud against the pain
because the call of God’s love and justice never change*

Leader 2: *Yes! We must also lift a vision of hope,
in order for implementation to begin
for where there is no hope and vision of something higher
the pain makes the challenges even more dire
But when hope breaks in to oppressive spaces,
we can all become rebuilders of broken places*

All: *So defend the rights of the poor,
pay people what they deserve,
revival now until God's way is heard
We can't educate our children, love our neighbor, and care for
the sick...
That's absurd! In the wealthiest nation on earth.
Revival now until we are heard
Amen*

Musical Selection

The Ebony Ecumenical Ensemble, Inc.

This service is the launch of *The Revival: Time for a Moral Revolution of Values*, a national revival tour to redefine morality in American politics. The first leg of the tour will travel to NC, SC, GA, AL, MS, IN, WI, MN, PA, OH, TN, VA, TX, OK, DC where Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II and Rev. Dr. James A. Forbes, Jr., have been invited by local civil rights and moral leaders to conduct revival meetings and services. They will be joined by other national social justice activists who bring the same deep moral analysis of the nation's problems, including Rev. Traci Blackmon, acting Executive Minister of the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries, and Sister Simone Campbell, director of the Catholic social justice lobby NETWORK in Washington, D.C. The Revival will be in Raleigh, NC on April 4, Atlanta, GA on May 23, and Birmingham, AL on June 6. For more information on The Revival and to sign the Higher Ground Moral Declaration see: breachrepairers.org.

The Revival: Time for a Moral Revolution of Values is sponsored by Repairers of the Breach, Healing of the Nations Ministries, and the Drum Major Institute. It is supported and endorsed by Auburn Theological Seminary, the Kairos Center for Religions, Rights and Social Justice, the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism, the Samuel Dewitt Proctor Conference, Inc., Union for Reform Judaism, Union Theological Seminary in New York City, and many more.

"A Call to Revival" is written by Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II and Rev. Dr. Liz Theoharis. Litany written by Rev. Jessica Chadwick Williams on behalf of the Kairos Center for Religions, Rights and Social Justice. The Revival: Time for a Moral Revolution of Values Video is produced by Eric Preston with Fusion Films. Founded by Bettye Forbes, the Ebony Ecumenical Ensemble has performed for more than 35 years - preserving, enlarging and sharing the faith, strength and triumph of the African American religious musical experience throughout metro New York, the United States and the world.





The Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II



The Rev. Dr. James A. Forbes, Jr.



The Rev. Traci Blackmon



Sister Simone Campbell

The Rev. Dr. William Barber II is Pastor of Greenleaf Christian Church, Disciples of Christ in Goldsboro, North Carolina which has a deep social justice ministry and has engaged in more than 12 million dollars of community development He is the architect of the Forward Together Moral Movement first born in 2006 that gained national acclaim with its Moral Monday protests at the North Carolina General Assembly in 2013. These weekly actions drew tens of thousands of North Carolinians and other moral witnesses to the state legislature. More than 1,050 peaceful protesters were arrested, handcuffed and jailed. In February 2014 more than 80000 people showed up for a Moral March and Peoples Assembly some say was the largest civil rights fusion gathering since Selma to Montgomery march. A highly sought after speaker, he has keynoted hundreds of national and state conferences. He has spoken to a wide variety of audiences including national unions, fraternities and sororities, motorcycle organizations, women’s groups, economic policy voting rights LGBTQ groups, environmental and criminal justice groups, small organizing committees of domestic workers, fast food workers, Christians, Muslims, Jews, and others. He has served as president of the North Carolina NAACP, the largest state conference in the South, since 2006 and sits on the National NAACP Board of Directors. A former Mel King Fellow at MIT, he is currently Visiting Professor of Public Theology and Activism at Union Theological Seminary in the City of New York and is a Senior Fellow at Auburn Seminary. He has been arrested numerous time for non violent civil disobedience. Dr. Barber is regularly featured in media outlets such as MSNBC, CNN, New York Times, Washington Post and The Nation Magazine, among others. He is the 2015 recipient of the Puffin Award and the Franklin D. Roosevelt Four Freedoms Award. His two most recent books include *Forward Together* (Chalice Press) and *The Third Reconstruction* (Beacon Press).

The Rev. Dr. James A. Forbes, Jr. is President of Healing of the Nations Ministries and serves as National Minister for the Drum Major Institute. He is Senior Minister Emeritus of The Riverside Church in New York City where he pastored for eighteen years. He was the first the Joe R. Engle Professor of Preaching at Union Theological Seminary in NYC and taught homiletics for thirteen years. Additionally, Dr. Forbes is a highly acclaimed author, scholar and nationally sought-after speaker, affectionately referred to in national and international religious circles as the “preacher’s preacher” because of his extensive preaching career and his charismatic style. Newsweek magazine once recognized Forbes as one of the 12 “most effective preachers” in the English-speaking world. As a passionate educator, administrator, community and human rights activist and interfaith leader, Dr. Forbes was twice designated as one of America’s greatest Black preachers by Ebony magazine. Dr. Forbes is a featured TEDex speaker and also a frequent guest and contributor to top national media outlets including Huffington Post, MSNBC and others. He has authored several books, including *Whose Gospel?* (The New Press) and *The Holy Spirit and Preaching* (Abingdon Press).

The Rev. Traci Blackmon is the pastor of the 156-year old Christ the King United Church of Christ, which is located a few miles from the fatal police shooting of Michael Brown in 2014. She went to work in the streets and was active in the first Black Lives Matter organizing. In 2015 she was named the acting Executive Minister of the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries; and in early 2016 she was appointed to the President’s Advisory Council on Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships. A minister for over 30 years, her experiences with the Black Lives Matter movement that was born on the streets of Ferguson has had a dramatic effect on her. She wants to reimagine the church’s table where we see ourselves “simultaneously as both guest and host, a table where ownership is not bestowed but shared. A table where all are welcome to bring all of themselves and contribute to the feast that is served.”

Sister Simone Campbell spent the summer of 2012 with a busload of fellow Catholic nuns in a tour of America protesting a policy-budget that came out of the extremists’ play-book, cutting social programs for the poor and the working poor. Prayer groups turned into rallies, and small town meetings became national media events. Sister Simone, a lawyer, is the executive director of the Catholic social justice lobby NETWORK in Washington, DC.