

CREDITS

Conceived and Written by: **Bettye Mullings**
Directed and Edited by: **Adriane Zacharoff**
Program: **Angela English**

Production Stage Management:

Danielle Laing **Alain King**

Audio/Visual Department:

Zane Zacharoff **Rosemond Duff**
Oghenero Gbaje - Video Editing

Minister of Music **Charlene Carey**
Musical Assistance **Lydia Velichkovski**

Drum and Percussion Accompaniment:

Leroy Rutherford and Joseph Carey

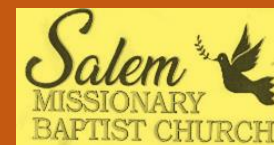
The Black History Committee and The Church Board of Christian Education would like to thank everyone who celebrated our first virtual Black History event with us.

**S.M.B.C. Church Board of Christian Education's
Black History Committee
Presents
A Mosaic: "The Truth of the Matter:
Black Lives in American History"**



A Virtual Presentation

May 16, 2021
3:00 p.m.



Dr. James A. Thornton, Pastor

SALEM MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

305 E. 21st STREET BROOKLYN, NY

DR. JAMES A. THORNTON, PASTOR

DR. BETTY HOLLEY, ASSOC. MINISTER

**CHURCH BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION'S
BLACK HISTORY COMMITTEE**

PRESENTS

FAMILY THEATRE AFTERNOON

Sunday, May 16, 2021

3:00 p.m.

*Theme: A Mosaic: "The Truth of the Matter:
Black Lives in American History"*

Introduction:..... Rev. Dr. James A. Thornton, Pastor

*Negro Anthem: "Lift Every Voice and Sing"
..... Trustee Sharon Rocke*

Invocation:..... Dr. Betty Holley, Assoc. Minister

Scripture: Sis. Gail Cambridge, Exodus 3:9-11

Speech: "I Have a Dream" (excerpt).....Dea. Leroy Rutherford

*Song: "A Change Is Gonna Come" by Sam Cooke
.....Bro. Michael Walker*

Narrator Min. Valerie Ellis

*Song: "Mama Is Master Gonna Sell Us Tomorrow"
..... Bro. Alain King*

Song: "Motherless Child"..... Deac. Lloydris Joseph

*Song: "Give Me Jesus" by Thomas L. Baynham, Jr. and
C. Michael Hawn..... Sis. Kaylani James*

Lift Every Voice and Sing

James Weldon Johnson & Rosamond Johnson

Lift ev'ry 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 has been watered.
We have come, treading our path through 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.

Scriptures:

King James Version

Exodus 3:9-11

9 Now therefore, behold, the cry of the children of Israel is come unto me: and I have also seen the oppression wherewith the Egyptians oppress them.

10 Come now therefore, and I will send thee unto Pharaoh, that thou mayest bring forth my people the children of Israel out of Egypt.

11 And Moses said unto God, Who am I, that I should go unto Pharaoh, and that I should bring forth the children of Israel out of Egypt?

*Poetry: “Dream Variations” by Langston Hughes
.....Sis. Alexis Chance*

*Songs: ... “The A-Train” & “Body and Soul” 3rd Realm Visions
..... Bro. Isaiah Thornton, Sis. Jasmine Morris,
..... Bro. Mshindi Larrier-Williams and Bro. Jason Glover*

Monologues written by Sis. Bettye Mullings

Monologue: “Big Man Gravy”.....Sis. Arvetta Drumgold

Monologue: “Daddy Grace”..... Dea. Leroy Rutherford

Monologue: . “A Soldier’s ‘Plaint’”..... Bro. Christopher Mathieu

Monologue: “They Stole My Song”.....Sis. Sheika Mason

Song: “We Shall Overcome”.....Trustee Sharon Rocke

*Song: “Feeling Good” by Leslie Bricusse and Anthony Newley
..... Sis. Nada Smith*

Song: “Pastime Paradise” - Stevie Wonder..... Bro. Greg Brooks

*Poetry: ... “The Hill We Climb” by Amanda Gorman (excerpt)
..... Sis. Latifah Johnson*

*Interview: ... “What to the Slave is the 4th of July” (excerpt)
..... from Leonard Greene, NY Daily News
..... Superintendent Doriel Larrier and Trustee Jarvis Cooke*

*Song: “Glory” by John Legend featuring Common
..... Bro. Greg Brooks, Bro. Alain King
and the Men’s Chorus*

Men’s Chorus

Bro. Julius Holley, Director

Dea. Bryan Baker

Bro. Greg Brooks

Dea. Allen Patrick

Dea. Joseph Carey

Bro. Alain King

*Speech: “Drum Major for Justice” (excerpt)
..... Rev. Dr. James A. Thornton, Pastor*

Black Entertainers



Billie Holiday born **Eleanora Fagan** (April 7, 1915 – July 17, 1959), was an American jazz and swing music singer. Nicknamed "**Lady Day**" Best known for her recording of "**Strange Fruit**" a song written by Abel Meeropol, recorded by Holiday in 1939. It protests the lynching of Black Americans, with lyrics that compare the victims to the fruit of trees.



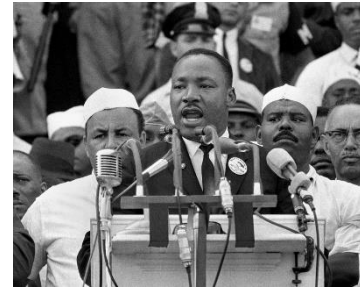
Gertrude "Ma" Rainey (born **Gertrude Pridgett**, April 26, 1886 – December 22, 1939) was one of the early professional blues singers that also got their work professionally recorded. The "**Mother of the Blues**", she bridged earlier vaudeville and the authentic expression of southern blues, influencing a generation of blues singers.



Bessie Smith (April 15, 1894 – September 26, 1937) was an American blues singer widely renowned during the Jazz Age. Nicknamed the "**Empress of the Blues**", she was the most popular female blues singer of the 1920s and 1930s. She is often regarded as one of the greatest singers of her era and was a major influence on fellow blues singers, as well as jazz vocalists.

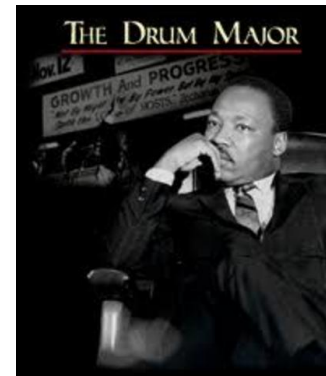


Ethel Waters (October 31, 1896 – September 1, 1977) was an American blues, jazz and gospel vocalist and actress. In 1950, she won the New York Drama Critics Circle Award for her performance opposite Julie Harris in the play *The Member of the Wedding*. In 1950-51 she wrote the autobiography *His Eye is on the Sparrow* with Charles Samuels, in which she wrote candidly about her life.



Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., delivered the iconic '**I Have a Dream**' speech at the March on Washington on August 28, 1963. The "I Have a Dream" speech was delivered before a crowd of some 250,000 people and remains one of the most famous speeches in history.

King used universal themes to depict the struggles of African Americans before closing with an improvised riff on his dreams of equality.



On 4 February 1968, **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**, preached "**The Drum Major Instinct**" from the pulpit of **Ebenezer Baptist Church**. Ironically, two months before his **assassination** on April 4, 1968, he told his congregation what he would like said at his funeral: "I'd like for somebody to say that day that Martin Luther King, Jr., tried to love somebody". Excerpts were

played at King's nationally televised funeral service, held at Ebenezer on April 9, 1968.



Black Lives Matter (BLM) is a decentralized political and social movement protesting against incidents of police brutality and all racially motivated violence against black people. The name **Black Lives Matter** signals condemnation of the

unjust killings of Black people by police (Black people are far more likely to be killed by police in the United States than white people) and the demand that society value the lives and humanity of Black people as much as it values the lives and humanity of white people.



Brown vs. Board of Education

On May 17, 1954, the United States Supreme Court ruled, in the landmark case of Brown vs. Board of Education of Topeka, that "separate but equal" educational facilities were "inherently unequal," and therefore segregation in

public education was unconstitutional.



The "Little Rock Nine," as the nine teens came to be known, were to be the first African American students to enter Little Rock's Central High School. On September 4, just 24 hours after a federal judge ordered the Little Rock Nine to begin attending Central High immediately, a belligerent mob, along with the National Guard, prevented the teens from entering the school.

On September 25, 1957, following a plea from Little Rock's mayor, Woodrow Mann, President Dwight Eisenhower federalized the National Guard and sent U.S. Army troops to the scene. Personally, guarded by soldiers from the National Guard soldiers and the Army's 101st Airborne, the Little Rock Nine began regular class attendance at Central High.

That spring, on May 27, 1958, Ernest Green became the first African American graduated from Central High.



Emmett Till, full **Emmett Louis Till**, (born July 25, 1941, Chicago, Illinois, U.S.—died August 28, 1955, Money, Mississippi), African American teenager whose murder catalyzed the emerging civil rights movement. In the summer of 1955, 14-year-old African American Emmett Till had gone on vacation from Chicago to visit

family in Money, Mississippi. He was shopping at a store owned by Roy and Carolyn Bryant—and someone said he whistled at Mrs. Bryant, a white woman. At some point around August 28, he was kidnapped, beaten, shot in the head, had a large metal fan tied to his neck with barbed wire, and was thrown into the Tallahatchie River. His body was soon recovered, and an investigation was opened.

It took fewer than four weeks for the case to go to trial: Roy Bryant and his half-brother J.W. Milam were accused of the murder, and an all-white, all male jury acquitted both of them.



Fredericka Carolyn "Fredi" Washington (December 23, 1903 – June 28, 1994) **Fredi** was an actress and founding member of the Negro Actors Guild of America as well as a journalist for People's Voice. In 1933 Washington received the coveted role of Peola in Fannie Hurst's novel, **Imitation of Life** (1934). Role was about mulatto passing as white, something many urged her to do in real life, but she never did.



Zora Neale Hurston (January 7, 1891–January 28, 1960) was an American author, anthropologist, and filmmaker. She portrayed racial struggles in the early-1900s American South and published research on hoodoo. The most popular of her four novels is **Their Eyes Were Watching God**, published in 1937. She also wrote more than 50 short stories, plays, and essays.



Katherine Dunham (June 22, 1909 – May 21, 2006)- African American choreographer, dancer, and scholar, an influential leader in black theatrical dance. Her technique emphasized the movement of individual body parts, such as the legs or hips, independently of the rest of the body. She has been called the "**Matriarch and Queen Mother of Black Dance**".



Langston Hughes, full **James Mercer Langston Hughes**, (born February 1, 1901, Joplin, Missouri, U.S.—died May 22, 1967, New York, New York), American writer who was an important figure in the Harlem Renaissance. The poem **Dream Variations** by Hughes is a nostalgic lyric which poignantly expresses the singer's wish for a carefree life away from color persecution and racial discrimination.



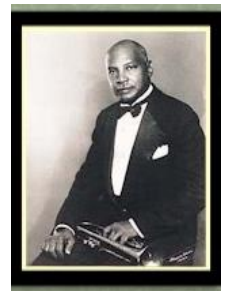
Florence Mills (born **Florence Winfrey**) January 25, 1896 - November 1, 1927. was one of the greatest entertainers and singing, dancing jazz performers the world has ever seen. As Harlem's **Little Blackbird**, she was one of the all-time greatest stars of the black theatre, the first black international female superstar of the Twentieth century and a major figure of the Harlem Renaissance.



Rev. Dr. Charles Albert Tindley (July 7, 1851 – July 26, 1933) was an American Methodist minister and gospel music composer. Often referred to as "**The Prince of Preachers**", he educated himself, became a minister and founded one of the largest Methodist congregations serving the African-American community on the East Coast of the United States. Tindley's "**I'll Overcome Some Day**" was the basis for the American civil rights anthem "**We Shall Overcome**," popularized in the 1960's.



Countee Cullen (born **Countee LeRoy Porter**; May 30, 1903 – January 9, 1946) was an American poet, novelist, children's writer, and playwright, particularly well-known during the Harlem Renaissance.. Countee Cullen was recognized as an award-winning poet by his high school years. He published his acclaimed debut volume of poetry, **Color**, in 1925, which would be followed by **Copper Sun** and **The Ballad of the Brown Girl**.



William Christopher Handy (November 16, 1873 – March 28, 1958) was a composer and musician who referred to himself as the **Father of the Blues**. Handy having single-handedly introduced a new style of music to the world. He acknowledged that he did not invent the blues but merely transcribed them and presented them to a worldwide audience.



The Azusa Street Revival was a historic Pentecostal revival meeting that took place in Los Angeles, California and is the origin of the Pentecostal movement. It was led by William J. Seymour, an African American preacher. It began with a meeting on April 14, 1906 and continued until roughly 1915. The revival was characterized by ecstatic spiritual experiences accompanied by miracles,

dramatic worship services, speaking in tongues, and inter-racial mingling. The participants were criticized by the secular media and Christian theologians for behaviors considered to be outrageous and unorthodox, especially at the time. Today, the revival is considered by historians to be the primary catalyst for the spread of Pentecostalism in the 20th century.



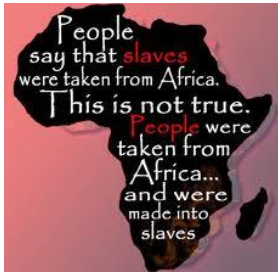
The Harlem Renaissance was an intellectual and cultural revival of African American music, dance, art, fashion, literature, theater and politics centered in Harlem, Manhattan, New York City, spanning the 1920s and 1930s. At the time, it was known as the "**New Negro Movement**",

named after *The New Negro*, a 1925 anthology edited by Alain Locke. Though it was centered in the Harlem neighborhood, many francophone (French-speaking) black writers from African and Caribbean colonies who lived in Paris were also influenced by the movement.

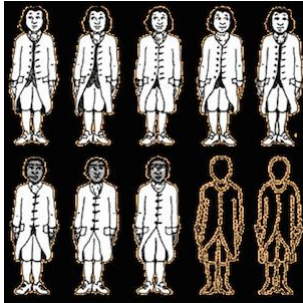


World War II (often abbreviated to **WWII** or **WW2**), also known as the **Second World War**, was a global war that lasted from 1939 to 1945. Over 1.5 million blacks served in uniform during World War II. They served in segregated units. Famous segregated units, such as the Tuskegee Airmen and the U.S. 761st Tank Battalion proved their value in combat. A total of 708 African Americans were killed in combat during World War II.

IMPORTANT FACTS



Slavery - is a form of unfree labor where a person (called a "slave") is compelled to work for another (sometimes called "the master" or "slave owner"). Slaves are held against their will from the time of their capture, purchase, or birth, and are deprived of the right to leave, to refuse to work, or to receive compensation (such as wages) in return for their labor.



The Three-Fifths Clause of the United States Constitution (1787)

Often misinterpreted to mean that African Americans as individuals are considered three-fifths of a person or that they are three-fifths of a citizen of the U.S., the three-fifths clause (Article I, Section 2, of the U.S. Constitution of 1787) in fact declared that for purposes of representation in Congress, enslaved blacks in a state would be counted

as three-fifths of the number of white inhabitants of that state.



The Emancipation Proclamation, issued by President Abraham Lincoln on January 1, 1863 freed slaves in states that remained in rebellion during the American Civil War. It was the precursor to the adoption of the 13th Amendment (1865). Many Americans, including Frederick Douglas and Angelina Grimke, also fought for an end to slavery by exercising their 1st Amendment rights to free speech, press, assembly and petition.



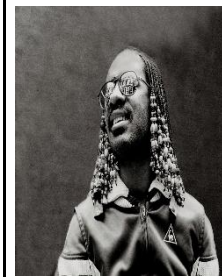
Jim Crow laws in U.S. history, any of the laws that enforced racial segregation in the South between the end of Reconstruction in 1877 and the beginning of the civil rights movement in the 1950s. **Jim Crow** was the name of a minstrel routine (actually **Jump Jim Crow**) performed beginning in 1828 by its author, Thomas Dartmouth ("Daddy") Rice. The term came to be a derogatory epithet for African Americans and a designation for their segregated life.



Paul Robeson – An American singer, actor, athlete, and civil rights activist. A bass-baritone noted for the rich lyric vibrancy of his voice. For a time, he was the most famous and respected African American in the US. But after 1949, he was the most vilified American alive, blacklisted, spied on, and threatened by racist vigilante terror. A strong voice for labor rights, civil rights, and anti-colonialism.



Samuel Cook (January 22, 1931 – December 11, 1964), known professionally as **Sam Cooke**, Cooke is commonly referred to as the "**King of Soul**" for his distinctive vocals, notable contributions to the genre and high significance in popular music. "**A Change is Going to Come**" was written and released on an album in 1964, this song immediately became an anthem for the civil rights movement.

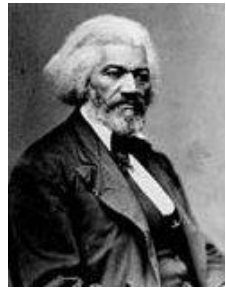


Stevland Hardaway Morris (born May 13, 1950), known professionally as **Stevie Wonder**, is an American singer, songwriter, musician, and record producer. "**Pastime Paradise**" is a song from the 1976 album *Songs in the Key of Life*. Wonder's final statement defines the actual message of the song: "Let's start living our lives, living for the future paradise," as opposed to living in the unhappy past, or the illusory future to escape present social issues.

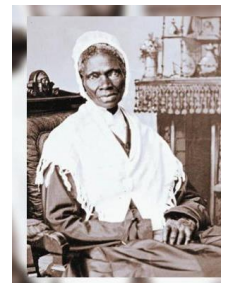


Amanda Gorman became the youngest person to deliver a poem at a U.S. presidential inauguration, with the 22-year-old reciting her poem "**The Hill We Climb**" after Joe Biden and Kamala Harris were sworn in as president and vice president.

Black Leaders and Activists



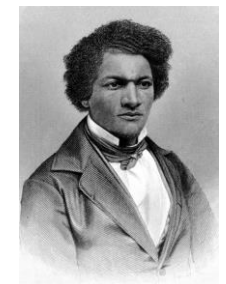
Frederick Douglass was born a slave. He taught himself to read and write. He ran away from his master. On July 5, 1852, abolitionist and orator Frederick Douglass delivered a scathing speech on slavery — its title commonly identified as **“What to the slave is the Fourth of July?”** — that still echoes today. It took 13 years after the speech for slavery to be abolished — 89 years after the signing of the Declaration of Independence.



Sojourner Truth born **Isabella "Belle" Baumfree**; c. 1797 – November 26, 1883) was a slave who was freed in 1827. Sojourner was an African American abolitionist and women's rights activist best-known for her speech on racial inequalities, **"Ain't I A Woman?"**, delivered extemporaneously in 1851 at the Ohio Women's Rights Convention.



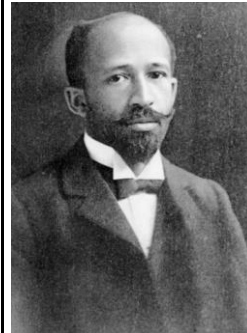
Harriet Tubman (1820 - 1913), born Araminta Ross escapes from slavery and becomes one of the most celebrated and effective leaders of the **Underground Railroad**. Harriet Tubman will guide hundreds of slaves to freedom before and during the war. She was never captured while rescuing slaves and as she was quoted: she "never lost a passenger".



Denmark Vesey (also Telemaque) (c.1767 — July 2, 1822) was an African American leader in Charleston, South Carolina. He worked as a carpenter. In June 1822 he was accused and convicted of being the leader of "the rising," a potentially major slave revolt which was scheduled to take place in the city on July 14. He was executed on July 2.



Crispus Attucks was an African American man killed during the Boston Massacre and believed to be the first casualty of the American Revolution. Tall, distinguished by his color, Attucks was the first to fall along with four other Americans. His name is inscribed in a memorial in Boston Commons.



W. E. B. Du Bois (William Edward Burghardt Du Bois) pronounced *dew-BOYSS* February 23, 1868 – August 27, 1963) was an African American writer, teacher, sociologist and activist whose work transformed the way that the lives of Black citizens were seen in American society. Considered ahead of his time, Du Bois was an early champion of using data to solve social issues for the Black community, and his writing—including his groundbreaking ***The Souls of Black Folk***.



Marcus Mosiah Garvey Sr. (August 17, 1887 – June 10, 1940) a Jamaican political activist, publisher, journalist, entrepreneur, and orator. Garvey was founder of **Back to Africa Movement**, National Hero of Jamaica, Black nationalist, and founder of the Universal Negro Improvement Association and African Communities League (UNIA-ACL).



Thurgood Marshall originally **Thoroughgood Marshall**, (July 2, 1908, Baltimore, Maryland,— January 24, 1993, Bethesda), lawyer, civil rights activist, and associate justice of the U.S. Supreme Court (1967–91), the Court's first African American member. As an attorney, he successfully argued before the Court the case of **Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka** (1954), which declared unconstitutional racial segregation in American public schools.