



**3rd Annual
Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration
Songs and Courage for our Times**

Featuring the Sea Change Chorale

**January 18, 2026, 2:00 pm
First Congregational Church, UCC, Portland, ME**

Sponsored by the Greater Portland Multi-Faith Group

3rd Annual
Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration
Songs and Courage for Our Times

Gathering Music		David Bartoletti, piano
Welcome		Alison J. Buttrick Patton
Setting the Context		Tara Humphries
Opening Anthem	<i>We Are</i>	<i>Ysaye M. Barnwell</i>
An Invitation		Khenmo Drolma

OUR HEARTS' ASPIRATION - Recalling the Vision that Inspires Us

In the Words of Dr. King		Sara Ewing-Merrill and Steve Savage
Reflection on the Vision		Alison J. Buttrick Patton
We Sing Together	<i>My Heart is Ready</i>	<i>Cindy Kallet/arr. Peter Amidon</i>

My heart is ready and what am I gonna do? [3 times]
Oh God! My heart is ready and what am I gonna do?

My hands are ready....

My feet are ready...

My voice is ready...

My spirit's ready...

DARK NIGHT - Navigating the Gap Between What Is and What We Long For

In the Words of Dr. King		Hillary Collins-Gilpatrick
Reflection on the Gap		Khenmo Drolma

Moments of Silence

We Sing Together	<i>Carry This All</i>	<i>Alexandra Blakely</i>
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You do not carry this all alone.

No you do not carry this all alone.

This is way too big for you to carry this on your own.

So, you do not carry this all alone.

Reflection on the Gap, Part 2

Moments of Silence

Anthem

I Believe

Mark Miller

WE ARE NOT ALONE - Finding Courage in the Company We Keep

In Dr. King's Words

Devin Green and Fritz Weiss

Reflection on Company and Courage

Tara Humphries

We Sing Together

Courage

South African Freedom Song

**Courage! (Courage!)
My friend! (My friend!)
You do not walk alone.
We will (We will)
Walk with you (Walk with you)
And sing your spirit home!**

Reflection on Courage and Company, Part 2

Anthem

The Bridge Builder

Don Macdonald

See lyrics, back cover

Group Reflection

For whom do you do this work?

Who accompanies you?

We Sing Together

We Shall Not Be Moved African American Spiritual ☰

**We shall not, we shall not be moved. [repeat]
Just like a tree that's planted by the waters
We shall not be moved.**

On the road to freedom, we shall not be moved...

Fighting for our children, we shall not be moved...

In company and courage, we shall not be moved...

A Parting Word

We Sing Together

We Are – Reprise

See back cover

Sending Forth

Join us for a reception in Guptill Hall, lower level, following this celebration.

Program Notes

Multi-Faith Gratitude: This afternoon's program was inspired by the words, work and legacy of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Dr. King's work was deeply rooted in his Christian Faith and a desire to build "God's Beloved Community." That vision resonated across religious lines; the Civil Rights movement was strengthened by the formation of multi-faith coalitions. Today, our responses have been informed by the wisdom of several faith traditions, including Buddhist, Tibetan, Christian, Quaker and Unitarian Universalist. We are grateful for these and so many other faithful voices that guide our shared work for justice.

☰ **Royalty for Spirituals:** Historically, the composers of African American Spirituals were neither known nor compensated for use of their songs. We invite you to join us in paying forward a 'royalty' for each Spiritual we sing today. Funds will be donated to the Indigo Arts Alliance <https://indigoartsalliance.me/>, "cultivating the artistic development of people of black and brown descent."



To make a secure online donation, scan the QR code at right or go fccucc.org/donate, select "Other" and note "Royalty for Spirituals" in the memo, or leave checks and cash in the black box at the back of the sanctuary. *Thank you!*

One Garment of Destiny Quilt: The quilt displayed at the front of the sanctuary today was created by First Congregational Church, UCC members Debbie Rideout and Joyce Brown, using words and fabric from last year's Dr. King celebration. During that service, we invited participants to name the gifts and strengths they bring to our shared justice work. Pieces of fabric representing those gifts were woven onto a loom. Some of the gifts mentioned that day are stitched onto the quilt, including: *Passion, Love, Joy, Humor, Hope, Music, Tenacity, Creativity, Connection and Courage.*

Program Participants

Rev. Hillary Collins-Gilpatrick, Minister, The First Universalist Church of Yarmouth; Reader

Emilia Dahlin, Founder, Community Sing; Song Leader

Venerable Khenmo Drolma, Abbess, Vajra Dakini Nunnery; Planning Team

Rev. Sara Ewing-Merrill, Lead Pastor, HopeGateWay Church; Reader

Rev. Devin Green, Interspiritual/Interfaith Minister, The Connected Way; Reader

Rev. Tara Humphries, Minister, Allen Avenue Unitarian Universalist Church; Planning Team

Deirdre McClure, DMA, Artistic Director, Sea Change Chorale; Planning Team

Rev. Alison J. Buttrick Patton, Senior Pastor, First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, South Portland; Planning Team

Rev. Steve Savage, Associate Pastor, First Congregational Church, UCC, South Portland; Reader

Fritz Weiss, Member, Portland Friends Meeting; Planning Team, Reader

Special Thanks

Cover Art: Emma Wolfsohn

Livestream: Alex Ratta

Ushers: Scott Berry, Lynne Lanctot, Carrie Skeffington, Kathy Sahrbeck and Karen Westerberg

Reception: Members and friends of First Congregational Church, UCC in South Portland

Opportunities for Action and Engagement

Community Sing: A regular gathering of people from around Greater Portland who want to cultivate hope by singing together. Founded by musician-turned-community-organizer Emilia Dahlin. Sign up to learn about future events or opt-in to the Response Team to sing at resistance and change events at emilia@emiliadahlin.com. The next Community Sing will be held on February 8, 3:30 pm at HopeGateWay, 515 Woodford Street, Portland.

Cumberland County Jail Weekly Vigil: Every Wednesday, a group of clergy and community members of all different faith backgrounds (or none) gather at the Cumberland County Jail I.C.E. Detention Center to pray, sing and send love into the system of injustice and ICE, including to those detained and those working within the system. All are welcome. Join us any or every Wednesday from 2:45 - 3:15 pm. More info at tinyurl.com/ccj-vigil

HopeActs: Founded in 2012, Hope Acts is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that provides housing, English classes, and other resources that support immigrants in transitioning to life in Greater Portland and in achieving their goals for a successful future. Hope Acts envisions a community where immigrants are welcomed and empowered socially, emotionally, physically, economically, and spiritually.

Maine Immigrants' Rights Coalition: MIRC's mission is to improve legal, social, and economic conditions for immigrants in the state of Maine.

MIRC brings together more than 100 organizations to form a unique statewide network representing diverse ethnic communities. These organizations, a majority of which are led by people of color, work together to foster immigrant inclusion and integration through both support programs and policies.

Wabanaki Alliance Coalition: The Coalition consists of more than 315 faith-based organizations, businesses, and non-profits that support Wabanaki inherent sovereignty and help advance the work of the Wabanaki Alliance:
<https://www.wabanakialliance.com/>

Do you see ICE or Border Patrol in your neighborhood? Call the Hotline (207) 544-9989. Help monitor the activity of federal law enforcement in our communities. Spread the word. Protect your neighbors. [Bit.ly/MaineICEWatch](https://bit.ly/MaineICEWatch)

Sea Change Chorale

Deirdre McClure, Artistic Director

David Bartoletti, Accompanist



SOPRANO

Betsy Beaven

Megan Connolly

Jessica Eller

Tracey Falla

Lora Flemming

Carol Jenkins

Betsy Wescott Keiter*

Paulina Klimek-Cornett

Susan Myers

Margaret Merrill

Deb Sandler*

Jill Saxby*

Lise Wagner

Adrienne Wilson*

Samantha Wilson*

Emma Wolfsohn

Rebecca Zafonte

TENOR

Julian Bencze

Jean Ellison

Alan Farneth

Ina Goldstein

Eric McCabe Johnson

Chris Keiter*

Frances Loriè

Libby Marcus

Susanne Polcari

Michael Stoddard

Audrey Williams

ALTO

Susan Bosco

Sharon Bresler

Joyce Brown*

Lee Cummings

Sally Farneth

Jennifer Friedman

Joy Gallant

Michaela Gill

Janet Heroux

Judy Kimball*

Sarah Lupien*

Ingrid Martin

Susan Payne

Marcia Pitcher

Emmaline Raven

Aimee Senatore

Maria Snyder

Kara Schwartz

Kiya Smith

Gina Tapp*

Joanne Zafonte

BASS

Peter Allen

Kevin Cleary*

Walter Kimball*

Terry Livingston*

Bruce Lockwood*

James Lorie

Mark Mercereau

Fritz Weiss

Peter Woodrow

*denotes First
Congregational Church,
UCC Meetinghouse
Choir

We Are

Ysaye Barnwell
adapted by Deirdre McClure

For each child that's born a morn-ing star ris - es and sings to the u - ni-verse
who_ we are. We are our grand-moth-ers' prayers and we_____ are our
grand-fath-ers' dream-ings, we_____ are the breath of our an - ces - tors, we_____ are the
spirit of God. For each child that's born a morn-ing star ris-es and sings to the u - ni-verse who we are. For
ritard.....
each child that's born a morn-ing star ris-es and sings to the u - ni-verse who we are. We are one.

The Bridge Builder - Will Allen Dromgoole

An old man going a lone highway,
Came, at the evening cold and gray,
To a chasm vast and deep and wide.
Through which was flowing a sullen tide
The old man crossed in the twilight dim,
The sullen stream had no fear for him;
But he turned when safe on the other side
And built a bridge to span the tide.

“Old man,” said a fellow pilgrim near, “You are
wasting your strength with building here; Your
journey will end with the ending day,

You never again will pass this way;
You’ve crossed the chasm, deep and wide,
Why build this bridge at evening tide?”

The builder lifted his old gray head;
“Good friend, in the path I have come,” he said,
“There followed after me today
A youth whose feet must pass this way.
This chasm that has been as naught to me
To that fair-haired youth may a pitfall be;
He, too, must cross in the twilight dim;
Good friend, I am building this bridge for him.

