

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 'til victory is won.

00000

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 thro' the blood of the slaughtered,  
Out from a gloomy past, till now we stand at last  
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

00000

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,  
Thou who has 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.

*\* Hymn written as a poem by NAACP leader James W. Johnson and music composed by his brother John R. Johnson in 1900. A choir of 500 schoolchildren at the segregated Staton School where James was a principal first performed the song in public in Jacksonville, Florida to celebrate President Abraham's Lincoln's birthday on 2/12/1900. — NAACP.org*

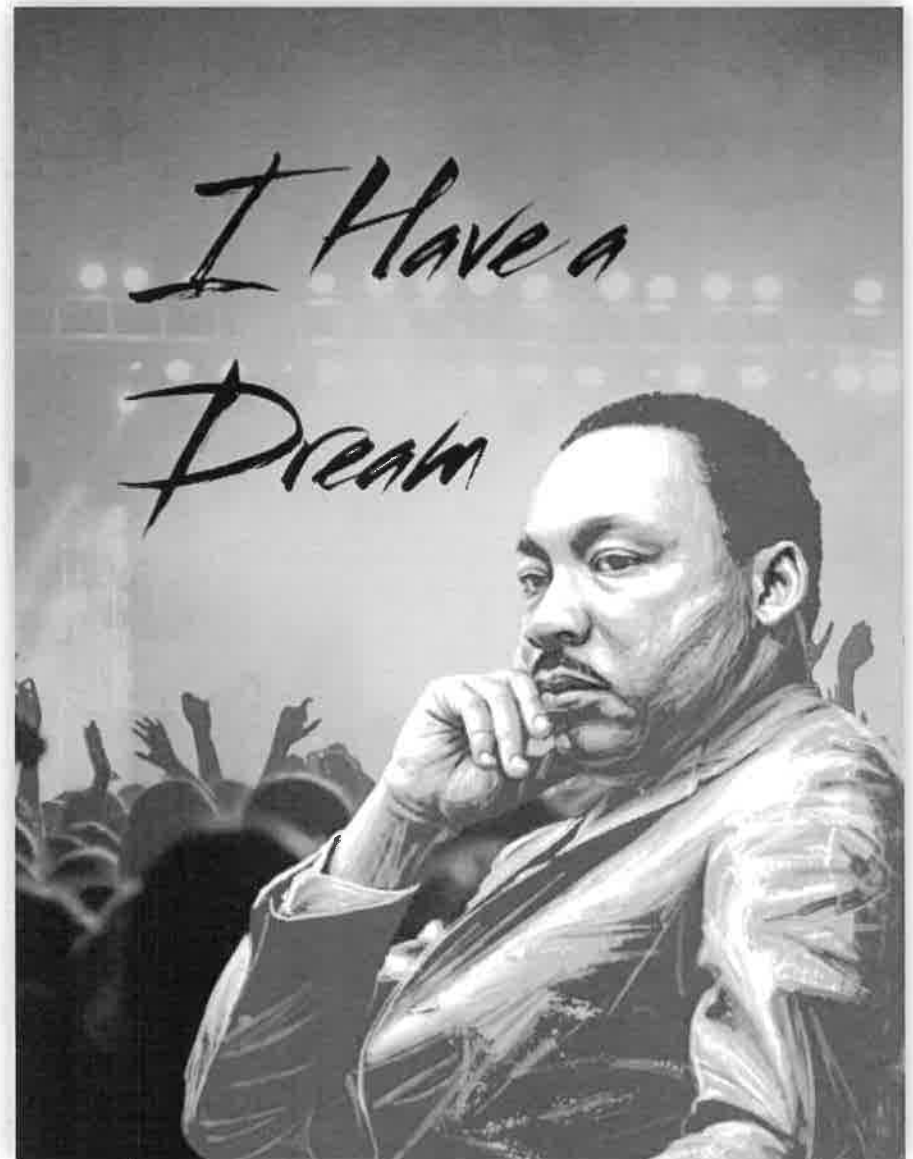
**Faiths/Belief Systems in Norman**

*this list is a work in progress \*\**

Assembly of God	Community Church	Orthodox Christian
Baha'i	Congregational	Pentecostal
Baptist	Hinduism	Presbyterian
Buddhism	Interdenominational	Quaker
Catholic	Indigenous Tribes	Reformed
Christian	Islam	Seventh-Day Adventist
Christian-Disciples	Jewish	Sikhism
Christian-Science	Lutheran	Unitarian
Church of Christ	Messianic	Unity
Church of God	Methodist	Wesleyan
Church of the Nazarene	Nondenominational	
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints		

*\*\* This list is collected and maintained by Human Rights Commission (HRC) and city of Norman staff.  
This list is an effort to stay connected as various organizations and belief systems grow within our city.*

Please use this QR code  
to complete this survey  
to help the Human  
Rights Commission  
plan for the 2025 MLK  
Interfaith Breakfast and  
Other Events



**"Community of Prayers for Togetherness"**  
**Presented by City of Norman in Collaboration**  
**with Human Rights Commission**

McFarlin Memorial United Methodist Church  
Norman, Oklahoma

**February 17, 2024**

**Welcoming Remarks**

Grace Holloman, City of Norman – ADA Technician & Social and Cultural Responsibility  
Jackie Farley, Norman Human Rights Commission – Chair  
Aisha Ali, Norman Human Rights Commission – Vice-Chair

**Prayer for Genuine Connection**

Reverend Dr. Rockford Johnson, McFarlin Memorial United Methodist Church – Senior Pastor

**Abune D'bashmayo (Our Father Who Art in Heaven)**

Father Nabil Mouanness, Our Lady of Lebanon – Pastor

**Prayer for Peace**

Imam Harris Ali, Islamic Society of Norman – Imam

**“Lift Every Voice and Sing”**

Anthony Francisco, City of Norman – Director of Finance

**Togetherness: God’s Way**

Steve Hardeman, Everlasting Life Baptist Church – Deacon and City of Norman – Plant Manager/Water Reclamation

**Cheyenne Prayer**

Chris Tallbear, National Network of Public Health Institutes – Tribal Public Health Advisor

**General Prayer for Mankind**

Dr. Arminder S. Kounsil, Langston University – Department Chair  
Mathematics and Punjabi Heritage Association of Central U.S.  
Miss Sukanya Banwait, Punjabi Heritage Association of Central U.S.

**Tikun Olam (Repair the World)**

Mike Korenblit, Respect Diversity Foundation – Co-Founder & Temple B’nai Israel, Member

**2023 City of Norman Human Rights Award Winners**

Aisha Ali, Norman Human Rights Commission – Vice-Chair  
Individual: Judge Tupper  
Group: Red Dirt Collective

**Unity & Diversity**

Reverend David Spain, First Christian Church of Norman – Senior Minister

**Forgiveness for the undeserving, Healing for the broken, Restoration for all**

Pastor George Chavez, 10<sup>th</sup> Man Ministry – Pastor

**Uniting in Faith**

Maxine Hill, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints – Member

**Prayer for Unity**

Pastor Michael Ford, Community Missionary Baptist Church – Lead Pastor

**Final Remarks**

Darrel Pyle, City of Norman – City Manager

*Thank you for coming!*

*We thank thee, O God, for the spiritual nature of man. We are in nature but we live above nature. Help us never to let anybody or any condition to pull us so low as to cause us to hate. .... Keep us, we pray, in perfect peace; help us to walk together, pray together, sing together, and live together until that day when all God’s children, Black, White, Red, and Yellow, will rejoice in our common band of humanity in the kingdom of our Lord and of our God, we pray. Amen.*

*The Reverend Martin Luther King Jr.*

*Thank You for All Your Hard Work the Past Few Years!*

Human Rights Commissioners: Jackie Farley-Chair, Aisha Ali-Vice-Chair, Chris Nanny, Chris Tallbear, Michael Ridgeway, & Stephen Machovic  
City of Norman Staff