

JUST *Love* MINISTRY PRESENTS



# *Voices of Justice*

FAITH & RESILIENCE IN FLORIDA'S BLACK HISTORY





# THE FIGHT FOR *Civil Rights*

## **THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT IN FLORIDA: ST. AUGUSTINE SIT-INS (1964)**

St. Augustine became a key battleground in the Civil Rights Movement. Leaders like Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and local activists staged sit-ins and marches, facing violence to challenge segregation.

*“But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.”*

## AMOS 5:24

St. Augustine was a critical location for the Civil Rights Movement, with students, clergy, and community leaders holding sit-ins and peaceful protests against segregation. These actions often met with hostility and violence, yet the activists pressed on in the spirit of nonviolence. Their faith-fueled commitment to righteousness and justice resonates deeply with the call of the prophet Amos, who urged God’s people to let justice flow unabated. In reflecting on their actions, we are prompted to consider how our faith influences our response to systemic inequality. Are we willing to stand for equity, even when it is risky or uncomfortable? The story of the St. Augustine sit-ins challenges us not just to remember past victories but to actively work against ongoing injustices in our communities. The call for justice is continual and unending—like an ever-flowing stream.

**Devotional Reflection:** Consider the courage of those who stood for justice, even in the face of great danger. How can the church support modern movements for equity and equality?

**Call to Action:** Advocate for fair treatment and equity within your community and commit to ongoing education about systemic racism.

### Musical Selections

[“We Shall Overcome”](#) (TFF #270) – A defining anthem of the Civil Rights Movement, it embodies the determination and faith of the activists.

[“I Want Jesus to Walk with Me”](#) (TFF #127) – A song of comfort and solidarity in the midst of struggle.

**Weekly Prayer:** God of righteousness and mercy, we remember with gratitude the brave men and women who sat in protest for freedom’s sake. Embolden us to speak truth when we see injustice and to act with compassion in the face of hatred. May we, like them, draw on faith to guide our actions toward peace, equity, and the flourishing of all. In Jesus’ name, we pray. **Amen.**

**Offering Prayer:** Gracious Lord, in gratitude for the blessings we enjoy, we bring these offerings before you. May they be used to support ministries that break down barriers, foster understanding, and champion justice. Empower us as your church to use all our resources—material and spiritual—to advance your kingdom of righteousness and peace. **Amen.**

**Blessing:** May the God of justice and mercy anoint you with courage to seek what is right. May Christ’s compassion open your eyes to those who are denied dignity, and may the Spirit sustain you as you let justice roll down like mighty waters. Go in peace and serve the Lord. **Amen.**



# Additional Resources

## CIVIL RIGHTS

### ARTICLES

- [The Civil Rights Movement in Florida](#)
- [The St. Augustine Movement \(1963 - 1964\)](#)

### VIDEO

- [Dr. King and Florida: Andrew Young Crossing](#)

Musical selections from [\*This Far by Faith \(TFF\): An African American Resource for Worship\*](#) hymnbook