



CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOUR

ON EARTH AS IN HEAVEN

530 West Fullerton Parkway
Chicago, Illinois 60614
773.549.3832

chicagocos.org

The Rev. Brian Hastings
Rector

The Rev. Jess Elfring-Roberts
Deacon

Alice Kovacik
Senior Warden

Brandon Cox
Junior Warden

Joel Gawlik
Treasurer

William White, CMJ
Director of Operations

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A Message from the Rector Brian Hastings:

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. had a dream. He envisioned a world where racism no longer impeded the lives of African Americans who continued to struggle against economic, educational, political, and social pressures, some overt, many deeply imbedded in the normal, everyday aspects of American life. His movement was seen at the time (and even more so now) as one of social disruption to achieve political goals and positive change in our justice system. He was regarded as a man of action and is now revered for all that he accomplished.

His Christianity often gets lost by a secular society celebrating his legacy while sidestepping his underlying motivation and the amazing, interior work done by those he led. The movement he inspired was non-violent—not simply as a protest ploy, but as a profound and deep spiritual renewal based on core teachings of Jesus. Everything done in the movement, beginning with Rosa Parks herself, was accomplished by a new corporate identity founded on individuals radically remodeled to live at peace with themselves and the world around them. It was a renewed and Christianized group of protesters (mostly black, but many whites as well) that fueled a movement that could not ultimately be resisted.

Hence, the civil rights achievements that King inspired were in fact a 20th century experience of vital and energizing Christianity—the same experience that inspired Jesus' disciples and apostles to keep that spirit alive by writing and compiling what we know today as the New Testament.

During this month of stewardship campaigning at Church of Our Saviour, one could look at the many programs and special events, the practical needs of supporting building space and personnel to keep worship and programming alive. But one could also pay attention to that often less obvious, more difficult thing to quantify—the renewal of individual people, gently prodded to become more Christian from the inside out. This is the real heartbeat of what Jesus offered his first disciples, and still offers us today.

A secular world prefers to remember Martin Luther King Jr. for his accomplishments. Good for them. I, for one, remember him for his capacity to inspire a generation of Americans (and indeed, people around the world) to Christian lives that changed the world they shared with others.

Pax,

Brian