



DAY TWO

Ellen Lautenberg and Melissa Kane

It's 11 pm in Montgomery, Alabama and we are just sitting down to memorialize a day that neither of us have words to describe.

We came on this mission to learn more about the African American experience, and to be on the ground at the sites where the civil rights movement - a movement which has been instrumental in our own activism began.

Today, starting with an unforgettable service led by Senator Reverend Warnock and culminating with visits to The Legacy Museum and the Memorial to Peace & Justice, we experienced the very best and the very worst of humanity. That juxtaposition led us to a number of observations.

The depth of human depravity and cruelty experienced for centuries by African Americans makes the work of MLK, Andrew Young, Rev. Warnock and other civil rights leaders that much more inspiring. Their ability to rise up - again and again - from such a long history of violent oppression and lead with a message of love and nonviolence leaves us with hope.

Warnock's message of healing in the face of current othering, bigotry, and division was a great reminder of Dr King's essential message that one injustice doesn't correct another, but in fact diminishes our humanity.

The last two galleries at the museum, filled with beautiful art and portraits of African American heroes, were further evidence of triumph of spirit. So, even in the face of the tremendous amount of racial justice work there is still to do in this country, we remain hopeful.



Part of what was so remarkable about the service at Ebenezer Baptist was the ability of Rev. Warnock to translate the message of scripture into relevant language and straight talk. The sound and rhythm of the choir and the spoken song-like cadence of the sermon was incredibly powerful!



we are grateful to be moving on to Selma tomorrow to walk in Dr. King's footsteps across the Edmund Pettus Bridge.

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It was extraordinary to hear Ambassador Young recollect his experiences with Rabbi Heschel, Rabbi Rothschild, and the Jewish community.

We recognize the complicated history between Jews and Blacks in this country but believe with the help of our faith communities and learning about our respective histories we can become better allies.

We will be processing our emotions and take aways from this remarkable day for many days to come. For now