

Candler School of Theology
MLK Week Service of Word
Thursday, January 22, 2026

Today's service is held in partnership with Candler's Black Church Studies Program.

**Indicates where you are invited to please rise in body or spirit.*

Welcome

The Rev. Dr. Nichole R. Phillips
*Associate Professor in the Practice of Religion and Society
Director of the Black Church Studies Program*

*Call to Worship

Keirsten Hoyle
Student, Master of Divinity

We gather carrying what the night has left us:
questions that linger, and hope that has learned how to wait.
We are still here.

We come knowing that faith does not begin with certainty,
but with the courage to keep showing up.
We come ready.

Come, all who refuse to let the dark have the final word.
Let us worship.

*Opening Prayer

*Opening Hymn *Precious Lord, Take My Hand*
Please direct your attention to the screen for lyrics.

Embodied Reading "How Long, Not Long" Candler Liturgical Dancers
by The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King *Student, Master of Divinity*

Scripture Reading Isaiah 9:12 Trisha Dumas
Please direct your attention to the screen. *Student, Master of Divinity*

Centering Song *We Shall Over Come* arr. by Bishop Paul S. Morton, Sr.
Candler Voices of Imani
Will Buthod, *director*

Sermon "ROOTED in the Dark: Faith Formed in the Shadow"
Rev. Dr. Jack L. Bomar
*Presiding Bishop, Hillside International Truth Center
Atlanta, GA*

Closing Prayer Keirsten Hoyle

*Closing Hymn *Guide My Feet | Jesus, The Light of the World* (refrain)
Please direct your attention to the screen for lyrics.

*Prayer for Protection

Bishop Bomar

**The light of GOD surrounds us.
The love of GOD enfolds us.
The power of GOD protects us.
The presence of GOD watches over us.
Wherever we are, GOD is.
Wherever I am, GOD is.
Wherever you are, GOD is.
Thank you, GOD, in me, through me,
 as me, around me,
Through the Christ within.
And it is so.**

.....
*The Office of Worship and Spiritual Formation of Candler School of Theology is supported, in part, by the
William R. Floyd 54C 57T and Joyce Hancock Floyd Worship and Music Endowment.*

Worship Notes:

Participants:

Musicians: Candler Voices of Imani; Will Buthod, *director*; Chris Gillespie, *organ*; George Sandler, *drums*.

Liturgical Dancers: Nia Waterhouse, Diana Guzman Lugo, Quinn Gentry, Ariel Murphy.

Tech Team: Calvin Thorbourne III, Layne Weldon, Shamala Williams, Grace Norton-Rogers, Irene Gonzalez

Sources:

Precious Lord, Take My Hand. Text: Thomas A. Dorsey, 1899-1993 © 1938, (renewed), Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp. Tune: George N. Allen, 1812-1877; adapt. By Thomas A. Dorsey © 1938, (renewed), Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp; Arr. © 2011, Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp.

How Long, Not Long. Speech by Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. delivered on March 25, 1965 - Montgomery, AL. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DTEPRWyIyRA>.

We Shall Overcome. Text: Traditional, adapt. by Zilphia Horton, Frank Hamilton, Guy Carawan, and Pete Seeger. Music: Traditional, arr. by Bishop Paul S. Morton, Sr.. Copyright 1989, Blackberry Records.

Guide My Feet. Text: Negro Spiritual. Tune: Negro Spiritual. Harm. Wendell Whalum, 1931-1987 © Estate of Wendell Whalum.

Jesus, The Light of the World. Text: George D. Elderkin, Charles Wesley. Music: George D. Elderkin. Copyright 1953.

Music reproduced by permission (OneLicense.net #A-701943).
.....