



**African
American
History
Month**

African American History Month 2021 Edition

February 2021



In order to know our routes, we must know our roots”

This past year I have taken the time to appreciate and reflect on treasures that I purchased during my travels to Ghana. One of my most prized possessions is a handmade Sankofa statue. It is a bird with its head turned backward taking an egg from its back. It expresses the importance of reaching back to knowledge gained in the past and bringing it into the present in order to make positive progress. This reminds me that revisiting the past can inspire and give insight for our future.

February has been designated as African American History month, however I view it as a kickoff month to continue this all year long. African American History impacted the history of our world. We are grateful for the African American Disciples who have contributed and impacted our Disciples community and world.

You are invited to continue this study with worship and educational resources. It is our hope that you will share this with your community and congregations beyond the month of February.

Blessed to be a blessing to you,

Rev Sheila P Spencer

DHM Interim President

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Litany

In Celebration of Black History

All: "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 Thy path we pray."

Leader: Even as the worlds were formed, continents named, oceans separated, and your plan for mankind began to unfold, you had us on your mind.

People: Thank you, Gracious Lord, for including us in your divine plan.

Leader: When you decided to perfectly place man in your world, you chose to place him in our Motherland.

People: Thank you, Gracious Lord, for including us in your divine plan.

Leader: Throughout Holy Scripture and throughout our history, we have witnessed your keeping power and we have been recipients of your love and grace.

People: Thank you, Gracious Lord, for including us in your divine plan.

Leader: We shall ever be mindful of how you brought us together after the middle passage, delivered us from the chains of slavery, and carried us through the civil rights movement.

People: May we always remember your love towards us, O God.

Leader: We thank you, dear Savior, for the gifts, talents, uniqueness, and cultural blessings you have poured out upon our people.

People: May we always appreciate the blessings you have bestowed upon us, O God.

Leader: We thank you for our mathematic, scientific, and literary genius. We thank you jazz, gospel, and the blues. We thank you for beautiful locks of hair and beautiful shades and complexions of skin, and even for soul-food.

People: May we always appreciate our unique beauty and giftedness, O God.

Leader: We thank you for the wisdom, strength, and determination we learned from our ancestors and for the blessings and love of family, O God.

All: And we stand today, O God, as a corporate family in love to remember, reflect, honor, and celebrate the heritage, history, and legacy you have given to us. And we ask that you, O Lord, will keep us forever in thy path, we pray. Amen.

African American Disciples Resources

ASALH -Established on September 9, 1915 by Dr. Carter G. Woodson, ASALH (Association for the Study of African American Life and History) are the Founders of Black History Month and carry forth the work of the founder, the Father of Black History. ASALH continues his legacy of speaking a fundamental truth to the world—that Africans and peoples of African descent are makers of history and co-workers in what W. E. B. Du Bois called, "The Kingdom of Culture." ASALH's mission is to create and disseminate knowledge about Black History, to be, in short, the nexus between the Ivory Tower and the global public. We labor in the service of Blacks and all humanity. www.asalh.org

Black Disciples Who Made a Difference is a collection of biographies of Disciples who have impacted our Disciples Church and the world.

[Black Disciples Who Made A Difference #1](#)

[Black Disciples Who Made A Difference #2](#)

[Black Disciples Who Make A Difference #3](#)

[Black Disciples Who Make A Difference #4](#)

[Black Disciples Who Make A Difference #5](#)

[Black Disciples Who Make A Difference #6](#)

For Loves Sake is a book by The Rev. John Foulkes. Published by the National Convocation and available for sale through GWD Ministries at norman.reed@att.net.

Lift Every Voice and Sing -- sometimes referred to as "Black National Anthem" is a song written as a poem by James Weldon Johnson (1871–1938) in 1899 and set to music by his brother John Rosamond Johnson (1873– 1954) in 1900.

The Cost of Unity: African American Agency and Education and the Christian Church 1865-1914 (Voices of the African Diaspora) -- Macon, GA: Lawrence Burnley Mercer University Press, 2008. This book examines the agency of African-Americans in the founding of educational institutions for blacks associated with the Christian Church. The philosophical discourse within the Christian Church concerning the purpose, type, and control of these schools is examined as well as the prevailing racial assumptions and attitudes that informed each of these areas. For more info [Mercer University Press: The Cost of Unity: African American Agency and Education in the Christian Church, 1865-1914 \(mupress.org\)](http://mupress.org)

I Have A Dream -- This poetic and provocative short film has been created to inspire communities to ask the question: how far have we come on the journey to social justice and what must be done to achieve the dream King so eloquently articulated in 1963? "[I Have A Dream](#)" ([Worship Download](#)) (saltproject.org)

Wisdom of Women Volume 2 -- Shares the life of Melvia Anderson Fields. She was born and reared in Bourbon County, Kentucky, which is near historic Cane Ridge. She is an African American author, leader, historian and inspiration. She is the author of "Women on a Mission" – a book about African American women who were integral parts of the history of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). This just scratches the surface of this remarkable woman It consists of 60 to 90 minutes of conversation and wisdom, edited into short six to ten-minute segments. A study guide with questions for reflection and conversation after each segment accompanies each DVD. The cost is \$29.95. For Information on the DVD Study Series and the book, "Women On A Mission", go to disciplehomemissions.org/wisdom-of

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 listening 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 till victory is
won.

Stony the road we trod, bitter the chastening
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 died?

We have come over a way that with tears have
been watered, We have come, treading our path
through the blood of the slaughtered, out from
the gloomy past, till now we stand at last where
the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,
thou who hast 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.



Augusta Savage's sculpture Lift Every Voice and Sing, or The Harp created in 1939 a year after James Weldon Johnson passed. Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing also referred to as "Black National Anthem" is a song written as a poem by Johnson in 1899 and set to music by his brother John Rosamond Johnson in 1900.

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