



## **JUSTICE SUNDAY SERVICE AROUND THE CLOCK**

*A Charge To Keep We Have To Serve This Present Age*

**Washington, D.C. (December 1, 2023)** – The 400 Years of African American History Commission (400YAAHC) presents its fourth annual Justice Sunday Service Around the Clock (**Justice Sunday**). Beginning on January 14, 2024, at 12:00 p.m., the program will stream on the 400YAAHC website ([400YAAHC.gov](http://400YAAHC.gov)) and streaming television channel ([smogotelevision.com](http://smogotelevision.com)) until 12:05 a.m. on Monday, January 15, the National Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday. Our theme, *A Charge To Keep We Have To Serve This Present Age*, encourages viewers to use the King Holiday as “a day on, not off;” a day to serve our communities; a day to give back.

**Justice Sunday** heightens awareness of the need for service and strengthening commitments to defend democracy and equality. Diverse faith leaders, government officials from all levels, community representatives, youth voices, musical guests, and others convene in tribute to Dr. King’s legacy, reminding us that the road to justice may be long and rocky, but our steadfast commitment to community service moves us along the way.

First observed over 20 years ago by the National Alliance of Faith and Justice (NAFJ), **Justice Sunday** mobilized individuals and groups in collaborative community service. In recent years, COVID intervened, hampering the ability to gather for in-person community service. Undaunted, the 400YAAHC created an on-demand, 12-hour virtual platform to breathe new life into **Justice Sunday** and once again inspire community service efforts throughout the land.

**Justice Sunday** features special guest host Clifton Davis. Davis, an actor, singer, songwriter, Ordained Baptist minister, and author, most noted for his television roles on *That's My Mama*, *Amen*, and *Madam Secretary*, and the hit song he wrote for the Jackson 5, *Never Can Say Goodbye*. Other guests include Isaac Newton Farris, nephew of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Morehouse graduate, and current Senior Fellow at the King Center. Born into a family of change-makers, Farris brings a unique perspective to many of today’s challenges. In addition, Dr. Stephon Ferguson, an eloquent speaker, will pay tribute to Dr. King’s powerful, penetrating oratory.

*“On this occasion, we pay tribute to the vocation and selfless service of Dr. King and countless volunteers, while emphasizing his and our ongoing pursuit of justice, equality, and unity. Cultivating a space for African Americans to engage with the history of the leaders that preceded us is of the utmost importance. Justice Sunday is an opportunity for us to reflect, reaffirm, and remember our charge on this earth.”*

**400 YAAHC Executive Director Ms. Addie Richburg**

**Justice Sunday** will stream beginning at Noon EST on Sunday, January 14, 2024, on the Commission's website: [www.400yaahc.gov](http://www.400yaahc.gov) and on its streaming television channel on [smogotelevision.com](http://smogotelevision.com). SMOGO can also be accessed on Roku, Apple TV and Amazon Fire.

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The 400 YAAHC, a federally appointed Commission, created in 2018, to commemorate the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the landing of the first kidnapped Africans in 1619 in the English colonies at Point Comfort, Virginia (today, Fort Monroe, Virginia). Since the commemoration that took place in 2019, the 400YAAHC has promoted the contributions of African Americans in the last 400+ years.