

DUKE UNIVERSITY'S 2026
THE REV. DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
SERVICE OF COMMEMORATION
Sunday, January 18, 2026
Three o'clock in the afternoon
Duke University Chapel

Hope Powered by Community II:

Together We Serve,
Advancing Dr. King's Vision of Humanity and Equity



Building upon last year's theme, we are excited to showcase Candis Watts Smith, Professor of Political Science at Duke Trinity College of Arts and Sciences, in conversation with Abby Phillip, anchor for CNN's *NewsNight* on "***Hope Powered by Community II: Together We Serve, Advancing Dr. King's Vision of Humanity and Equity***." Ms. Phillip will share reflections on her recently published book, *A Dream Deferred: Jesse Jackson and the Fight for Black Political Power*, and Rev. Jackson's unique connection to King's legacy. Dr. King's resonate messages invite us all to reflect on the importance of our common humanity and the value of equity.

CARILLON

PRELUDE

John Brown Quintet

PROCESSIONAL

John Brown Quintet

“SIM SHALOM”
(Grant Peace)

Elana Friedman
Campus Rabbi, Jewish Life at Duke

INVOCATION

Luke A. Powery
Dean, Duke University Chapel

GREETINGS

Vincent E. Price
President, Duke University

Leonardo Williams
Mayor, Durham, North Carolina

Kevin L. Thomas
*Vice Dean for Culture, Engagement, and Impact,
Professor of Medicine, School of Medicine*

Makyla Pirtle
President, Black Student Alliance; Trinity '27

MUSIC SELECTION

United in Praise

Early

The Straight Gate Mass Choir

INTRODUCTION OF KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Corey Pilson
Fuqua '26

KEYNOTE CONVERSATION

Abby Phillip
Anchor, CNN

Candis Watts Smith
Professor of Political Science, Duke University

MUSIC SELECTION

United in Praise

Oh, Lord How Excellent

River of Life Choir

BENEDICTION

Joshua Salaam
Chaplain, Center for Muslim Life

CONGREGATIONAL SONG | Please Rise as Able

United Methodist Hymnal #519: Lift Every Voice and Sing

RECESSIONAL AND POSTLUDE

John Brown Quintet

CARILLON

USHERS

*Kwasi Bonsu, T '27; Jerome Butler, T '28; Members of the Alpha
Christian Dunbar, T '26; Hakeem Shitta-Bey, E '26; Phi Alpha Fraternity
Natnael Worku, E '26*

MUSICAL LEADERSHIP

John Brown *Professor of the Practice of Music, Duke University*
Nicholas Venable *Music Director for United in Praise*
Aaron Colston *Carillonneur, Duke University Chapel*

The Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemoration and Celebration Committee acknowledges the support of the Duke University Office of the President, Duke’s Centennial Celebration, the Office of the Provost, the Duke University Health System, the Office of the Executive Vice President for Health Affairs and Dean of the Duke University School of Medicine, Duke Divinity School, the Office for Institutional Equity, University Communications and Marketing, Trinity College of Arts and Sciences, The Graduate School, the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs, the Mary Lou Williams Center for Black Culture, Duke Student Government, and Duke Chapel.

*For a full schedule of upcoming events and additional information,
please visit mlk.duke.edu.*

MEMBERS OF THE DUKE UNIVERSITY DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
COMMEMORATION AND CELEBRATION COMMITTEE

Kimberly Hewitt, Chair: *Vice President for Institutional Equity, Office for Institutional Equity*

LaShana Addison: *Executive Assistant to SVP, Chief Marketing & Communications Officer, Duke University Health System*

Gabriel Bostick: *Reginaldo Howard Scholar; Trinity '26*

Scott Brummel: *Assistant Director for Food Security & Nutrition, Duke Community Affairs*

Jasmine Nicole Cobb: *Professor of African & African American Studies and of Art, Art History and Visual Studies, Duke University*

Isabella Dearing: *Community Engagement Fellow, Durham Community Affairs*

Godwin Dooley: *Executive Assistant to the Vice President and Director of Athletics, Duke Athletics*

Pamela Gibbs-Smith: *Assistant Vice President, Communication Strategy and Operations, Communications, Marketing, and Public Affairs*

Amanda Gonzalez: *Program Director for Special Events, Office for Institutional Equity*

Cecilia Gyamfi: *Trinity '25*

Sydney Harrison: *Program Director for Communications & CECAC, Office for Institutional Equity*

Paul Kartcheske: *Production Manager, Duke Arts*

Taren Moore: *Senior Associate Director of Athletics/People, Culture & Community, Duke Athletics*

Bruce Puckett: *Assistant Dean, Duke University Chapel*

Ashley Turnbull: *Assistant Director of Training and Assessment, Mary Lou Williams Center for Black Culture*

ABBY PHILLIP

Abby Phillip anchors *NewsNight with Abby Phillip* airing weeknights at 10:00 p.m. ET. Abby deftly moderates one of the most dynamic and exciting conversation shows on television. Each night, Abby brings together a diverse group of perspectives to debate the day's biggest stories, driven by honesty, the facts, and the pursuit of common understanding. With her award-winning background



in dogged Washington reporting, Abby brings unique context to the complexity of current affairs. Abby keeps the powerful honest in hard-hitting interviews and hosts interesting conversations with a variety of perspectives.

Abby joined CNN in 2017 and has served in many roles, including as a White House Correspondent, Senior Political Correspondent, and Anchor of Inside Politics Sunday. In January 2020, she moderated CNN's Democratic Presidential Debate in Iowa. She also anchored special coverage of Election Night in America surrounding the 2020 election. Abby has been an essential player in CNN's Special Coverage of a range of political events, including election nights, State of the Union Addresses, and the January 6th Committee hearings.

Abby joined CNN from *The Washington Post*, she previously worked at ABC News and Politico. Throughout her career she has covered multiple presidents, campaign finance, lobbying, and several presidential campaigns.

Abby was named to the Time 100 Next list in 2021, and she was the recipient of the National Urban League's Women of Power award. She was nominated for a News and Documentary Emmy for her coverage of black maternal health with the hour-long documentary, *Homebirth: Saving Black Moms*. She serves on the board of the News Literacy Project and the Senior Advisory Committee of the Harvard Institute of Politics.

Abby was raised in Bowie, Md. and is a graduate of Harvard University with a degree in Government. When not on television, she spends time with her husband, daughter, and their pup, Booker T.

CANDIS WATTS SMITH

Professor Smith's expertise highlights race and ethnicity's role in shaping the American political landscape. Her research agenda illuminates the ways in which demographic dynamics influence citizens' and denizens' of the U.S. understanding of their own identity, their political attitudes, and their policy preferences.



Smith applies the knowledge gained from research to speak to issues that influence real people, including the effects of racial attitudes on American politics, diversity issues, and access to resources that ought to be distributed equitably.

Prior to her appointment at Duke University, she was a member of the Departments of Political Science and African American Studies at Penn State. She is a co-host of the *Democracy Works* Podcast and is a TEDx alumna.