

**Black History Month Chapel Service
February 21, 2021**

Opening Song *Up Above My Head*

Known MPLS

Welcome and Introductions

Jorge Banuelos '20

Call to Worship

Darryl York '23

One: God of our ancestors and God of our dreams, we gather today to remember that you have created us all in your image and in your likeness

All: And so, we still have the courage to dream the impossible.

One: We remember how you spoke into the darkness and created light

All: And so, we still have the courage to dream the impossible.

One: We remember the ways you have delivered your people through trials and tribulations since the beginning of time, right up until this present moment

All: And so, we still have the courage to dream the impossible.

One: You have comforted us through the middle passage, racism, segregation, stripped identities and unjust laws

All: And so, we still have the courage to dream the impossible.

One: God you have been the guiding light along the paths of Hope and Love leading toward a beloved community where all are equally seen and radically loved

All: And so, we still have the courage to dream the impossible.

One: We gather today remembering your presence amongst us and the call to do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with you and our neighbors.*

Song *Lift Every Voice and*

Sing

Known MPLS

Readings

Grace Bassekle '24

From the *Qur'an*, Chapter 4, al-Nisa' (The Women): Verse 135

"O believers, be you securers of justice, witnesses for God, even though it be against yourselves, or your parents and kinsmen, whether the man be rich or poor; God stands closest to either. Then follow not caprice, so as to swerve; for if you twist or turn, God is aware of the things you do."

From Malcolm X:

"There is no better than adversity. Every defeat, every heartbreak, every loss, contains its own seed, its own lesson on how to improve your performance next time."

"I believe that there will ultimately be a clash between the oppressed and those that do the oppressing. I believe that there will be a clash between those who want freedom, justice, and equality for everyone and those who want to continue the systems of exploitation... It is incorrect to classify the revolt of the Negro as simply a racial conflict of black against white, or as a purely American problem. Rather, we are today seeing a global rebellion of the oppressed against the oppressor, the exploited against the exploiter."

Sermon "The Evolving Malcolm X"

Isma'il Kushkush

Song *Revelation*

Known MPLS

Benediction

Jorge Banuelos '20

God of love and justice, we give thanks for our many ancestors who taught us how to transform the world and ourselves. Help us to use that legacy to see the power in ourselves and to step forward with open eyes, hands, and hearts to lead our communities to build a better world for all. Amen.

Closing Song *Great God*

Known MPLS

We are very grateful that Isma'il Kushkush could join us today. Mr. Kushkush is a Sudanese-American journalist who was based in Khartoum, Sudan, for eight years, where he contributed to many news organizations, including The New York Times, CNN, Voice of America and Al Jazeera English. Twice he has worked as the acting bureau chief for The New York Times in East Africa based in Nairobi. He has covered political, economic, social and cultural stories from Sudan, South Sudan, Kenya, Ethiopia, Somalia, Burundi, Sweden and the United States. Mr. Kushkush grew up in the United States, Sudan, Syria and Kuwait. He received a BA from the University of California, Davis, and an MA in journalism from Columbia Journalism School. His work on Malcolm X was made possible by a grant from the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, part of the New York Public Library.

We are also very grateful to Director Courtland Pickens and Known MPLS for their recordings. Mr. Pickens founded the choir in 2019 and in the short time since then, Known has opened in concert for Grammy award-winners and performed alongside the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra. Known has recorded music with Lil Jamez and Darnel Davis and the Remnant. You can find them at www.knownmpls.com.

Our thanks also go to all the other participants in the service today: to the Black Student Alliance for helping to plan the service; to Jorge Banuelos for suggesting Mr. Kushkush; to the Carleton Student Association for funding; and to our readers.

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