

**2025 Freedom Sunday (February 23, 2025)**  
**Draft Order of Service**

[ need to add: Meditation / Talk / Offering ]

Shine

Welcome/Introduce - reason for the season

Invite congregation to please rise for the Black National Anthem (Zoey)

Lift Every Voice (congregation)

- all 3 verses?

Storyline:

Narrate history of African American people

- Africa (Dr. Kristee)
- Pour libations (honor ancestors - Dr. Kristee Haggins explain libations, say the 4 or 5 past influential names)
- involve the youth (do the pouring)
- pass the mic - people share past loved ones
- can print out names that the youth can share
- option: slide show visuals (influential people in history)
  - after 4 or 5 names, We Come From Greatness (only the ending)

Background info/Slavery: Rev. Kev and Rev E. narrate (if comfortable)

- share background info (1 or 2 min) about Slavery
- Wade in the Water (or medley) (other possibilities:
  - This Morning When I Rose
  - Swing Low, Sweet Chariot
  - We've Come This Far By Faith
  - You Can't Beat God's Giving
  - We Fall Down But We, But We Get Up
  - Speak Over Yourself
  - Change Is Gonna Come

Importance of church for African American people (narration)

- 3 or 4 gospel/old school song: e.g., Victory is Mine; I Woke Up This Morning (with my mind set on Jesus); ...

Civil Rights movement: narration or video with a hymn (Mahalia Jackson); or just narrate

- Rev E/VOU: Rev. Charles song... "We Have Overcome" (Rev. E leads, VOU comes in at the end, coming down the aisle)

The Future (Youth):

- If available: Sanai: spoken word... Amanda Gorman or other / Kyree: possible rap
- option: India and/or Siraj: "Greatest Love of All" (W Houston)
- option: "Tomorrow" (Tevin Campbell/Quincy).. William sings
  - (or if available, Sanai with adult choir added in the back);
- option: if available, children's choir sings "Youth Be Strong" or other song)

Thank you's

- The Dream Goes On