



Jim Justice
Governor of West Virginia

As Governor of West Virginia, I welcome you to Martin Luther King, Jr. State Holiday Commission and Black Ministerial Alliance's 2025 Ecumenical Service.

We're gathered here in this special place—First Baptist Church of Charleston, where Dr. King himself once stood. It's hard to put into words what a powerful moment that was and how much his words still mean to all of us today. Dr. King dreamed of a world where we'd all live together in peace, equality, and love. Though we've made progress since his time, that dream is still something we're all working toward.

It's a blessing to be in this church, a place where history was made, as we honor Dr. King's life and what he stood for. His message of justice, fairness, and kindness was simple, but it still rings true for all of us today. We know we have more work to do to make his dream a reality, but I believe with all my heart that we can get there if we keep working together.

So today, let's remember not just what Dr. King did for this country but what we can do, right here and right now, to keep moving that dream forward. Each of us has a part to play—whether it's in our families, our neighborhoods, or our communities. Let us continue to carry his message of love and justice every day.

Thank you for being here today and for taking the time to participate in this important service. Your presence reminds us that Dr. King's dream is still alive in all of us.

James C. Justice, II


Governor, State of West Virginia