



‘NEVER FORGET BY SINGING’

**Psalm 104:33; Exodus 15:1-21; Deuteronomy 32:7;
“Lift Every Voice and Sing”**

We continue here, at Providence church, to celebrate Black History Life. The month of February, which is the shortest month of the year, is too short for African Americans to remember their rich and proud legacy. The roots and the heritage of a people constitutes their foundation and stability for future generations. God’s chosen people pride themselves in never forgetting their history with God. Their modern day worship experiences continuously point them back to their past and they never forgot what Jehovah had done and is still doing for them.

Music played an important part in Israel’s worship and celebration. Singing was an expression of love and thanks, and it was a creative way to pass down oral traditions. In Exodus 15:1-21 we find the song of Moses. Some say this song written by Moses is the oldest recorded song in the world. It was a festive epic poem celebrating God’s victory lifting the hearts and voices of the people outward and upward. After having been delivered from great danger, they sang with joy! Psalms, songs, and hymns can be great ways to express relief, praise, and thanks when you have been through trouble. In Deuteronomy 32:1-48 we read another poem or song of Moses to help the people to never forget the awesomeness of God by remembering their history.

Another poet and musician, David, writes in Psalm 104:33, that “I will sing to the Lord all of my life; I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.” Before Carter G. Woodson found it imperative to establish Negro History Week there was a poet/songwriter whose life in some ways paralleled that of the great deliverer Moses. James Weldon Johnson was a poet/songwriter whose life’s work was like that of Moses—“TO MAKE HIS PEOPLE NEVER FORGET THEIR HERITAGE BY REMEMBERING IT BY SINGING.”

This morning’s sermon will look at the lives of two men who loved their people and encouraged them to not only remember the horrible tragedies of the past, but to never forget the goodness, mercy, and victories by God in their lives. Moses and James Weldon Johnson were prophets in their own time even though they were over 3,000 years apart on the historical chart. This morning will let God show the similarities between the songs of Moses and “Lift Every Voice and Sing.”

Providence, with God on our side we are “FACING THE RISING SUN of OUR NEW DAY BEGUN, LET US MARCH ON TILL VICTORY IS

Pastor Gerald L. Durley