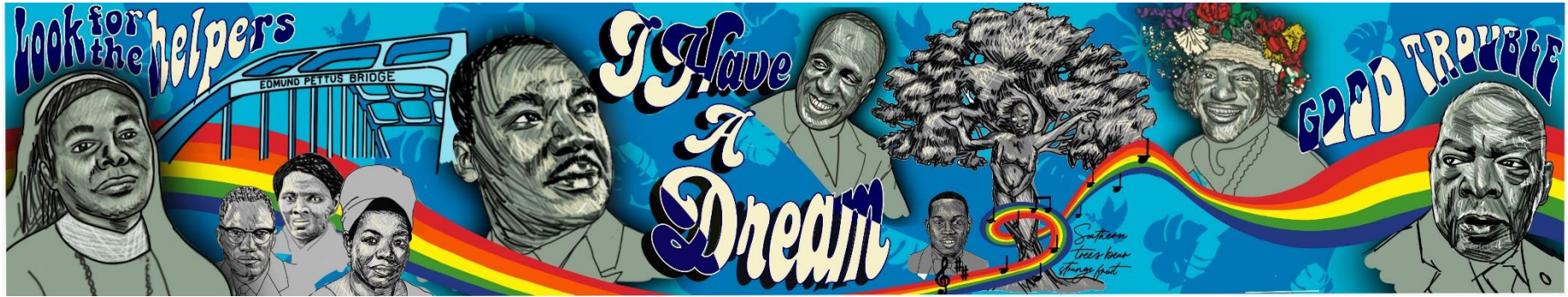


Christ the King's Civil Rights Mural



Why did we decide to create this wall painting?

As practicing Christians, we firmly believe that we must do all we can to form a society that is based on justice, equality, and compassion for all members of the human race. This is what Martin Luther King called the “Beloved Community.” We can only hope to reach this goal if we are able to tell the truth about our communities and ourselves, and if we dismantle racism and homophobia that continue to haunt our society. With our mural we hope to provide opportunities to reflect on our successes and failures as a society, to acknowledge the work that still lies ahead, and to heal our world one relationship, one neighborhood, and one community at the time.

Starting on the left, the following individuals are depicted on our Civil Rights mural:

Saint Anna Alexander, Malcolm X, Harriet Tubman, Maya Angelou, Martin Luther King, Howard Thurman, Ahmaud Arbery, a tree representing Mary Turner, Marsha P. Johnson, and John Lewis.

Weaving across the mural is a rainbow-colored ribbon which in one area displays notes and lyrics from the Billy Holiday song “Strange Fruit.”

For more information on our mural, please go to our website at: <http://christthekingvaldosta.org/>

Note: Our artists are Taylor Shaw (former VSU professor) and A’Shadrian “Shay” Clayton (VSU student).

Background on Christ the King:

Until 2020, Christ the King Episcopal Church, led by the late Father Stan White, was located at 101 East Central Avenue. This was also where you found Hildegard's, a café that served as a venue for music and art shows. Today, a boutique hotel and the Gūd Coffee House are located there.

In 2021, the building at 101 East Central Avenue was sold and a new building for our church was acquired at 110 McKey Street.

Background on Mack's Park:

In 2002, Valdosta received a new landmark with Mack's Park. This park was dedicated in honor of William "Mack" Freeman, former owner of the Flower Gallery, who passed away in 2000. Mack was a beloved business owner and a member of our LGBTQ community. The park contains a sculpture by Wilby Coleman ("Unarranged Flowers: Where is Mack now that we need him?")

In 2005, the VSU student Sarah Lippincott, who also worked at the Flower Gallery, painted a small mural on the wall of our building to honor Mack. Although her mural, which deteriorated over time, is no longer visible, with our new mural we also wanted to honor him. If you look closely, you will find a small portrait of Mack on our wall, alongside other beloved community activists and friends we have lost over the years.



Civil Rights Mural

Dedication Ceremony

Time: Saturday, August 19 at 10 AM

Location: Mack's Park, 110 McKey Street, Valdosta

Speakers:

- Dr. Michael G. Noll
- Archdeacon Yvette Owens
- Bishop Frank Logue
- Dr. Catherine Meeks

The dedication ceremony will be followed by a reception inside Christ the King Church.