



THE HISTORIC  
**CALVARY**  
BAPTIST CHURCH  
OF DOVER, DELAWARE

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*The Place Where Life Begins*

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In a few days, the final celebration of life services for the Reverend Jesse Louis Jackson, Sr., will be held in Chicago, Illinois, at his beloved Rainbow Push Coalition Headquarters. He was a preacher, a prophet, a freedom fighter, and a servant of God whose voice helped shape the moral imagination of this country...and even this world.

Reverend Jackson was in a long line of people who refused to separate faith from justice. For him, the gospel was never confined to the walls of the church. It walked the streets where people lived and encountered real-life experiences that were determined by their race, economic status, and differences. He understood that God is not indifferent to suffering, He hears the cry of the oppressed, and calls people of faith to stand on the side of righteousness. He understood that the sacred work of justice is not merely political but spiritual. He believed that dignity belongs to every person, regardless of race, class, or circumstance. That belief fueled a movement that lifted the voices of the marginalized and reminded America that its highest ideals must be matched by its actions.

He challenged systems of inequality while also cultivating hope. He called people to see themselves not as victims of history but as agents of transformation. His famous affirmation — “Keep hope alive” — was not just a slogan, but it was a theological declaration that despair does not have the final word.

His life reminds us that faith without courage becomes complacency, and courage without faith becomes bitterness. Reverend Jackson preached a faith that believed God was moving in history, and courage that dared to confront injustice wherever it appeared.

So, we honor not just a man, but a witness. A witness who reminded us that the struggle for justice is sacred work. A witness who challenged us to see the image of God in every human being. A witness who taught a generation to keep marching, keep praying, and keep hope alive.

Faithfully in His service and with pastoral love,

Bishop W. James Thomas, II, D.Min., Senior Pastor