

## OCCUPY WALL STREET HONORS THE SPIRIT OF DR. KING WITH YEAR'S LARGEST ACTION

### Hundreds Gather for Global Candlelight Vigil at Historic Riverside Church

**New York, NY:** Religious leaders, artists, and members of the Occupy movement will unite globally on January 15th, 2012 to honor the spirit of Dr. Martin Luther King Junior. At 6:30 p.m. hundreds of Occupy Wall Street activists will assemble on the steps of the Cathedral Church of Saint John the Divine (1047 Amsterdam Avenue,, New York) and at 7:00 p.m. begin a massive candlelight march to nearby Riverside Church (490 Riverside Drive New York, 10027). The group will join additional feeder marches and members of the community at Riverside Church for a massive candlelight vigil and celebration renewing King's message of peace, justice, and equality for all, regardless of race or economic class. The action, expected to be the largest of the new year, will culminate in an assembly featuring performances and speak-outs from artists, celebrities, religious leaders, and activists. Performances by Patti Smith, Steve Earle, Stephan Said, and Kozza Olantunji, as well as many more, will complement the inspirational words of Dr. Benjamin Chavis, Yoko Ono, Russell Simmons, Reverend Stephen H. Phelps, Daisey Kahn, Norman Siegel, Sumumba Sobukwe and Malik Rhasaan.

"Poverty, an issue to which King showed increased focus in the years just before his death, finds its way into the darkest chapters in American History. Dr. King sought to shine a light of justice against those dark chapters of war, repression and racism, our candles symbolize that light," says Abigail Keegan of Occupy Wall Street.

"These are revolutionary times. All over the globe men are revolting against old systems of exploitation and oppression and out of the wombs of a frail world new systems of justice and equality are being born. The shirtless and barefoot people of the land are rising up as never before. 'The people who sat in darkness have seen a great light.'" — *Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., on April 4, 1967, at a meeting of Clergy and Laity Concerned at Riverside Church in New York City*

Riverside Church has been an intersection of faith and social justice in the greater New York metropolitan area for over 170 years. At Riverside in 1967, Dr. King gave his historic "Beyond Vietnam" speech. On King's birthday and in the spirit of his vision for racial and economic equality, peace, and non-violence, activists will return to Riverside in solidarity with others holding candlelight vigils from California to Cairo; New York to New Orleans; Germany to Nova Scotia, to unite our world in a global movement for systemic change.

**This candlelight vigil kicks off more than 24 hours of Occupy Wall Street-organized events and actions including a march on Mon., Jan. 16th at 9am from the African Burial Ground to the Federal Reserve Bank for a rally for economic justice. For more information about the January 15th action visit <http://j15global.org>**