Responding to the Assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

April 4, 1968, 5:01pm Eastern time:
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., is shot and killed in Memphis.

Hours later, riots erupt in various parts of DC, including at 14th Street and Park Road NW.

Saturday, April 5: St. Stephen’s becomes an informal distribution point for food and clothing.
In an article in The Episcopalian, Jenny Moore wrote, “Fourteenth Street was ablaze as far as you could see. St. Stephen’s became, at least for the white Northwest, a symbol of unity where black and white people could meet. People called it “a bridge between two Washingtons.”

April 4, 10:30pm: St. Stephen’s holds DC’s first requiem eucharist for Dr. King.
The Rt. Rev. Paul Moore, then the Suffragan Bishop of Washington, wrote, “The church was so full that people coming in could hardly find a place to stand, yet when the prayers began a reverent silence enveloped the congregation, and we could plainly hear the wail of sirens, the sound of gunshots, and the fearsome sound of men running as fast as they could, soles beating on the pavement.”

Sunday, April 6: Palm Sunday. St. Stephen’s parishioners process with palms along 14th Street.