



A Litany & Prayer for Martin Luther King Jr. Day

We remember the conviction of Martin Luther King Jr. that "freedom is never voluntarily given by the oppressor; it must be demanded by the oppressed."

Therefore, let us pray for courage and determination by those who are oppressed ...

We remember Dr. King's warning that "a negative peace which is the absence of tension" is less than "a positive peace which is the presence of justice."

Therefore, let us pray that those who work for peace in our world may cry out first for justice ...

We remember Dr. King's insight that "injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly affects all indirectly."

Therefore, let us pray that we may see nothing in isolation, but may know ourselves bound to one another and to ALL people under heaven ...

We recall Dr. King's lament that "the contemporary church is often a weak, ineffectual voice with an uncertain sound. It is so often the arch-supporter of the status quo. Far from being disturbed by the presence of the church, the power structure of the average community is consoled by the church's silent and often vocal sanction of things as they are."

Therefore, let us pray that neither our congregation nor any congregation of God's people may be silent in the face of wrong, but that we may be disturbers of the status quo knowing and trusting that is God's call to us.

We remember Dr. King's hope that "dark clouds of racial prejudice will soon pass away and the deep fog of misunderstanding will be lifted from our fear-drenched communities and in some not-too-distant tomorrow the radiant stars of love and brotherhood (community) will shine over our great nation with all their scintillating beauty."

Therefore, in faith, let us commit ourselves and our work for justice for ALL people to the goodness of God.