

**Celebrating Dr. Martin Luther King
January 14, 2023
10a-1p**

Agenda

Theme: “Living Nonviolence in our actions, our minds, our hearts and the words that we speak.”



“Nonviolence is the answer to the crucial political and moral questions of our time—the need for mankind to overcome oppression and violence without resorting to violence and oppression. Civilization and violence are antithetical concepts.” – Dr. King’s Nobel Prize acceptance speech, 1964

10a Opening prelude: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w4FG_3ShmAw

10:05 Welcome of Toni and Fr. Brian

10:10 Song - Keedron Bryant

https://www.instagram.com/p/CAqIQYFFT8N/?utm_source=ig_e%20%20%20%20%20%20%20%20mbed

10:15 Opening Prayer

Prayer of Nonviolence - Mary Catherine Bunting

Provident God,
Aware of our own brokenness,
we ask the gift of courage
to identify how and where our minds, our hearts and our spirits are in need of
conversion
We desire to live in solidarity with all Earth’s people and creation.

Deliver us from the violence in our action, our minds, our hearts and the words that we speak

Deliver us from the sin of superiority and disdain.

Grant us the desire, and the humility,
to listen with special care to those
whose experiences and attitudes are different from our own.

Deliver us from the violence of greed and privilege.
Grant us the desire, and the will, to live simply
so others may have their just share of Earth's resources.

Deliver us from the silence
that gives consent to abuse, war and evil.
Grant us the desire, and the courage
to risk speaking, acting and using our individual or collective influence for the common good.

Deliver us from the violence
of irreverence, exploitation and control.
Grant us the desire, and the strength,
to act responsibly within the cycle of creation.

God of might, love, mercy and justice,
we lay before you our acknowledgement and our complicity
in those attitudes, action and words which perpetuate violence,
we beg for the grace of non-violent actions, minds, hearts and words in all that we are and all
that we influence in the world.

Embolden us deeply within ourselves to be, live and overflow with all that we lay before you
and desire.

For this we pray O mighty God. Amen

10:25 (1 min meditative pause)

10:26 Video Honoring the Legacy of Dr. King (11 min.)
<https://vimeo.com/666614787>

Followed by 4 three- 3 minute reflections on the video

1. John Wheatland
2. Denise Duvall
3. Flo Valentine
4. Delores Moore

10:50 **A WINDOW INTO LOVE: POPE FRANCIS ON DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. – KEVIN BURDINSKI**

Love bears every trial with a positive attitude. It stands firm in hostile surroundings. This “endurance” involves not only the ability to tolerate certain aggravations, but something greater: a constant readiness to confront any challenge. It is a love that never gives up, even in the darkest hour. It shows a certain dogged heroism, a power to resist every negative current, an irrepressible commitment to goodness.

Here I think of the words of Martin Luther King, who met every kind of trial and tribulation with fraternal love:

“The person who hates you most has some good in him; even the nation that hates you most has some good in it; even the race that hates you most has some good in it. And when you come to the point that you look in the face of every man and see deep down within him what religion calls ‘the image of God’, you begin to love him in spite of [everything]. No matter what he does, you see God’s image there. There is an element of goodness that he can never sluff off... Another way that you love your enemy is this: when the opportunity presents itself for you to defeat your enemy that is the time which you must not do it... When you rise to the level of love, of its great beauty and power, you seek only to defeat evil systems. Individuals who happen to be caught up in that system, you love, but you seek to defeat the system... Hate for hate only intensifies the existence of hate and evil in the universe. If I hit you and you hit me and I hit you back and you hit me back and so on, you see, that goes on ad infinitum. It just never ends. Somewhere somebody must have a little sense, and that’s the strong person. The strong person is the person who can cut off the chain of hate, the chain of evil... Somebody must have religion enough and morality enough to cut it off and inject within the very structure of the universe that strong and powerful element of love.”

— From *Amoris Laetitia*, citing Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s 1957 [sermon given at Montgomery’s Dexter Avenue Baptist Church](#).

11a- Reflection – Kendall Conder (3-4min)

11:05 Children give speeches inspired by Dr. Martin Luther King
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=116nM6LbPmE>

11:15 Prayer in words of Dr. King- Cathy Kelly

O God, we thank you for the fact that you have inspired men and women in all nations and in all cultures. We call you different names: some call you Allah; some call you Elohim; some call you Jehovah; some call you Brahma; some call you the Unmoved Mover. But we know that these are all names for one and the same God. Grant that we will follow you and become so committed to your way and your kingdom that we will be able to establish in our lives and in this world a brother and sisterhood, that we will be able to establish here a kingdom of understanding, where men and women will live together as brothers and sisters and respect the dignity and worth of every human being. In the name and spirit of Jesus. Amen.

11:20 Dr. King and the Catholic Church - Ralph Moore (15 min)

11:35 Dr. Ibrahim Kendi (5 min)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cSEDOh4qtIo>

11:45 Open forum for dialogue and reflections regarding nonviolence

12:05 We Are the World/Heal the World - Voices of Hope Children's Choir (Virtual Choir)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9tRLowGHh4c>

12:10 Closing Prayer Delores Moore

By Rev. Dr. Yolanda Pierce

Let us not rush to the language of healing, before understanding the fullness of the injury & the depth of the wound.

Let us not rush to offer a bandaid, when the gaping wound requires surgery & complete reconstruction.

Let us not offer false equivalencies, thereby diminishing the particular pain being felt in a particular circumstance in a particular historical moment.

Let us not speak of reconciliation without speaking of reparations & restoration, or how we can repair the breach & how we can restore the loss.

Let us not rush past the loss of this mother's child, to his father's child...someone's beloved son.

Let us not value property over people; let us not protect material objects while human lives hang in the balance.

Let us not value a false peace over a righteous justice.

Let us not be afraid to sit with the ugliness, the messiness, & the pain that is life in community together.

Let us not offer clichés to the grieving, those whose hearts are being torn asunder.

Instead...

Let us mourn black & brown men & women, those killed extra judicially every 28 hours.

Let us weep at a criminal justice system, which is neither blind nor just.

Let us call for the mourning men & the wailing women, those willing to rend their garments of privilege & ease, & sit in the ashes of this nation's original sin.

Let us be silent when we don't know what to say.

Let us be humble & listen to the pain, rage, & grief pouring from the lips of our neighbors & friends.

Let us decrease, so that our brothers & sisters who live on the underside of history may increase.

Let us pray with our eyes open & our feet firmly planted on the ground.

Let us listen to the shattering glass & let us smell the purifying fires, for it is the language of the unheard.

God, in your mercy...

Show me my own complicity in injustice.

Convict me for my indifference.

Forgive me when I have remained silent.

Equip me with a zeal for righteousness.

Never let me grow accustomed or acclimated to unrighteousness.

For this we pray. Amen

Closing song: Lift every voice and sing

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XV8sNvLRFho>