

“SACRED RESISTANCE”

“Resistance as Non-Compliance”

Weekly Prayer Guide

“Our resistance is ‘sacred’ because it is not driven by self-interest or fear, or even only a benevolent wish for the good of an oppressed group. It is ‘sacred’ because it is driven by God at work in and through us.” (Gaines-Cirelli) Throughout the month of January, you are encouraged to tap into your relationship with God through prayer. Each day there are scriptures to read and a short prayer service to follow. As you allow this sacred practice of prayer to influence your life, pay attention to the ways that God is calling you to resist harm and to live in love.

Opening Prayer

Almighty God, you know the heart and mind of every person, and (yet) you love them, including me. As I seek to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in all its forms, may I never resist your love, wherever it is to be found and however it shows up. Grant me the strength and clarity to proclaim Your love for all of Your children and to co-work with You for a world where diversity is celebrated and welcomed, not feared and punished. When I am weary and need to rest, may I find my rest in You. In the name of Jesus, the Christ. Amen.

Scripture Readings

- Monday: **1 John 4:16-21**
- Tuesday: **Psalms 61:1-5**
- Wednesday: **John 11:17-46**
- Thursday: **Exodus 3:1-12**
- Friday: **Ephesians 6:10-17**
- Saturday: **Isaiah 55:1-13**

Pray

For all God’s people, that we may have the courage to resist.

For the Church, that we may resist the temptation to settle for easy answers to hard questions.

For our LGBTQIA+ siblings that they may draw strength from the willingness of all God’s people to stand together to the forces of exclusion and know here and now the love of Christ.

Benediction

May the God of ultimate peace and power be always before us, beside us, within us, and behind us. Amen.

References

“Allied Force: A Guide to showing up without getting in the way” by Jamia Wilson, Rookie, 01/14/15.

“Road Map for Revolutionaries; Resistance, Activism, and Advocacy For All” Elisa Camahort Page, Carolyn Gerin, Jamia Wilson. Ten Speed Press, New York. 2018.

Gaines-Cirelli, G. (2018). *Sacred Resistance*. Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press.

Prayer guide comes from Resistharm.com under the prayers tab

Action Guide

As a community of Christians, we are called to care for one another through acts of justice and mercy. The body of Christ is diverse, we all find that our strengths and talents differ from person to person. While we learn what it means to be a community that is active in the public square, a community that upholds sacred resistance, often it is challenging to know where to even begin.

From the civil rights movement to the Women's March, many of the most impactful social and political movements emerge from historically oppressed communities organizing themselves to combat systemic injustices. If showing up for a community that is not your own intimidates you, know that you are not alone and that you can make a difference if you know how to engage. If the goal is to commit yourself to justice, open yourself up to learning and don't be afraid to make mistakes. The result will be uniting with others by being your best self- even if it is a work in progress. Here is a checklist of the six habits of highly effective allies.

January 6, 2020- Own Your Privilege

Recognize your rewards. People are often given unearned advantages or benefits because of identities that are imbued with a higher value by society or normalized in the dominant culture. In the US, such privilege is most often associated with whiteness, cisgender maleness, heterosexuality, physical and mental ability, documented citizenship, and material wealth.

January 7, 2020 - Be Vulnerable

Putting yourself out there as an ally isn't always easy. Being vulnerable is a part of owning your privilege. Expect to be uncomfortable. Be ready and willing to learn, even if it means that you could be called out for not knowing something. If you're called out and it makes you feel upset or humiliated, know you're not the first person to feel that, and you won't be the last. Humans make mistakes. Don't let an error keep you from supporting the causes you care about. Process your feelings with other allies, journal about what you learned and hope to do differently in the future, and make a pledge to yourself to be a better listener and more thoughtful communicator next time. Prepare to apologize when necessary.

January 8, 2020 - Listen More Than You Talk

When a person expresses frustration about oppression that you haven't personally experienced, it's a good time to listen. Even if your intentions are good, diminishing people's stories does more to advance oppression than dismantle it. When publically supporting a movement, spend time sharing the voices of that movement and the communities it supports.

January 9, 2020 - Face Your Fears

If you believe in something but are reluctant to speak out about it, ask yourself what you're afraid of. Investigate your concerns. Are you afraid of hostility from family members and friends with different beliefs? Are you worried that you're not well enough informed to take a firm stand? What are the concrete consequences if those fears come true? Weigh the consequences of staying silent, then think about what steps you can take to feel supported by like-minded people if you speak out and do face backlash.

January 10, 2020 - Don't Try To "Save" Anyone

Being an ally is not about being a savior- it's about understanding that your own freedom is inextricable from the freedom of oppressed communities.

January 11, 2020 - Show Up

Be present and be active. This is an essential part of being a true ally. It means different things, depending on the cause, but if you're offering support in a way that is meaningful and sensitive to the needs of the people directly affected, you're showing up. Sometimes it involves volunteering, marching, singing petitions, sending supplies, documenting actions, offering rides, sending texts or making phone calls, or making donations. Work with your gifts.