

“SACRED RESISTANCE”

“Resistance as Protest”

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

Overcoming God, who brings light out of darkness, hope out of despair, and life out of death, give us the strength to overcome evil with good, to defeat hatred with love, and to eliminate discrimination with inclusion. Give us the strength to endure hardship, misunderstanding, and opposition, so that the fruit of the Spirit may characterize our resistance. Empower us to continue laboring in the vineyard until all are one in Christ Jesus. Amen.

Scripture Readings

- Monday: **Amos 5:24**
- Tuesday: **Micah 6:8**
- Wednesday: **Malachi 2:10**
- Thursday: **John 17:20-23**
- Friday: **Colossians 1:15-20, 3:11, 3:28**
- Saturday: **Ephesians 1:9-10, 2:14-16**

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*
- *For Martin Luther King’s vision of a beloved community, where are all children of God, and treat our neighbors who look differently than us with kindness and love.*

Benediction

May the God who has made us one human family, work in and through us so that all may know they are God’s beloved children, that all may live abundantly, and all may be given full access to all the Church’s sacraments and ministries. Amen.

Action Guide

As the beloved community, we are called to live as witnesses to the love of God in the public square. We do this by showing up and giving voice to the matters that concern us most. Martin Luther King Jr. addressed persons who sat by as persons were being harmed due to racial injustice in his “Letter from Birmingham Jail.” If you have not taken time to read this profound writing from MLK, please spend time reading it as part of your action for the week! A manuscript is available here, https://web.cn.edu/kwheeler/documents/Letter_Birmingham_Jail.pdf, or there are several copies at the church receptionist desk.

This week the action guide gives you ways to engage with the community through direct action. Each event is intended to be an invitation to get involved, but also an invitation to pray for the action of others if you are unable to march or show up. Imagine how you can use your voice today, and share your witness in the most authentic way possible for you! ***“The ultimate tragedy is not the oppression and cruelty by the bad people, but the silence over that by the good people.”*** (Martin Luther King Jr.)

Monday, January 20, 2020

Wichita Habitat for Humanity will kick-off our 2020 Build Season on the Martin Luther King Day of Service from 8am-Noon. During this event, 150 volunteers will construct all of the interior and exterior walls of two three-bedroom homes inside the Expo Hall of Century II Performing Arts & Convention Center. Participants will take part in Dr. King’s enduring legacy of social justice, learn about the need for safe and affordable housing within our community, and help a hardworking family realize their dream of homeownership. Please sign up early if you would like to participate and you must be at least 10 years of age. <https://www.wichitahabitat.org/volunteer/individual/>

Join the Greater Wichita Ministerial League, along with Dr. Cynthia Hale, as we celebrate the life, ministry, and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. You will not want to miss the music that will be rendered by our local talent, as well as the powerful words that Dr. Hale will bring to us. This will take place from Noon-2 p.m. at the Eugene M. Hughes Metropolitan Complex (5015 E. 29th St. N., Wichita, KS 67220).

Tuesday, January 21, 2020

Are there issues that you have a passion for? Chances are, there is already a petition created that you can sign to make your voice heard. Sign a petition today, log on to Sojourners Website <https://sojo.net/sojoaction/take-action> or Move On website, <https://sign.moveon.org/> and browse petitions that you are passionate about, by adding your name, you are making your voice heard!

Wednesday, January 22, 2020

Martin Luther King Jr. said many times that enlisting the youth and young adults to be agents of justice was how the non-violence movement would spread. Today, you are welcome to attend an event at WSU, “Remember the Dream” the 12th annual MLK anniversary commemoration from 6-8pm Rhatigan Student Center, Beggs Ballroom. There will be music, and presentations from various groups on campus.

Thursday, January 23, 2020

Sometimes giving to a cause is the best way we can make our voice heard. Martin Luther King Jr. was part of the SLCL, Southern Christian Leadership Conference which was heavily involved in the civil rights movement. Their work continues on today through various causes. Check out their website and find out those intersections that you might feel called to give. <https://nationalsclc.org/causes/>

Friday, January 24, 2020

Every second Friday of each month the Friday’s for Future- Climate Strike takes place from Noon-1pm at the intersection of Douglas Ave and Market Street. Mark your calendar for the February!

Saturday, January 25, 2020

3rd Annual Women’s March Air Capital. Beginning at the Old Town Plaza at 11:30am and marching to The Way venue for rally, speakers, music and more.

Sunday, January 26, 2020

Racial Healing Panel Discussion at First Church Sanctuary 6pm. This panel discussion is in collaboration with St. Mark UMC and will be live streamed on First Church’s website.

<http://sundaystreams.com/go/firstwichita>

References

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

Prayer guide comes from Resistharm.com under the prayers tab