

“SACRED RESISTANCE”

“Resistance as the Underground”

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

Inviting God, give us grace to hear and respond to your invitation to be co-creators with you in the cause of justice and peace-making, through the practice of nonviolent resistance and the ministry of reconciliation. Help us to remember our baptismal covenant and resist evil in whatever form it presents itself. Amen.

Scripture Readings

- Monday: **2 Chronicles 35:2-21**
- Tuesday: **Isaiah 59:14-20**
- Wednesday: **Matthew 5:7-10**
- Thursday: **Acts 5:27-29**
- Friday: **Ephesians 6:10-18**
- Saturday: **1 Peter 2:23**

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 who has called us to overcome evil with God, give us the grace to be instruments of God’s peace. 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

Saul Alinsky was an American community activist and political theorist active in the mid-1900s. His work through the Chicago-based Industrial Areas Foundation helping poor communities organize to press demands upon landlords, politicians and business leaders won him national recognition and notoriety. Alinsky suggested that the core purpose of organizing was to build power: "We are concerned with how to create mass organizations to seize power and give it to the people." In his book, "Rules for Ordinary Radicals," he shares about the power of the people and how when we work together and seek the welfare of others change is possible.

Our baptismal vows give power to this larger than life community that we belong to. Through our baptismal vows to resist evil in whatever forms it presents itself, we give power not to ourselves but to the community of Christ, that is the underground gospel! Each day this week you are invited to reflect in a journal entry, through a prayer walk or by talking with a friend about the questions listed on each day. Each of the questions comes from the liturgy that is shared during the service of baptism in the United Methodist Church.

As John the Baptist, a person of the underground baptized Jesus Christ, we remember and give thanks for that initial act of resistance. Our baptismal vows call us to something greater; self-reflection or going "underground" to the depths of our soul fuels mobilization for real change to take place in the communities that we live, work and play in. Be brave and see where the pondering interior life takes you this week!

January 13, 2020-

Do you renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness, reject the evil powers of this world, and repent of your sin?

January 14, 2020

Do you accept the freedom and power God gives you to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves?

January 15, 2020 -

Do you confess Jesus Christ as your Savior, put your whole trust in his grace, and promise to serve him as your Lord, in union with the Church, which Christ has opened to people of all ages, nations, and races?

January 16, 2020

According to the grace given to you, will you remain faithful members of Christ's holy Church and serve as Christ's representatives in the world?

January 17, 2020

Through baptism you are incorporated by the Holy Spirit into God's new creation and made to share in Christ's royal priesthood. We are all one in Christ Jesus. With joy and thanksgiving, we welcome you as members of the family of Christ.