



Express

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity: Jan. 18-25th

Honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Prayers for the Nation

Save the dates for the March Annual Assembly to be held via Zoom

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Observing the Week of Prayer:

In the background material for the Week of Prayer produced by Graymoor Ecumenical and Interreligious Institute, I came across the passage below as a means of setting a context for the passage from St John's Gospel and the metaphor of the vine and the branches. It is an apology and a call for Christian unity.

The image of branches helps believers understand that they are all diverse as individuals, but brought together in the one Vine, who is Christ alive in the Church. It can also point out, in these times of growing ecumenical witness, that the differing expressions of Christian faith are also branches which cannot live on their own and still authentically proclaim the Gospel to all creatures. We preach Christ crucified and risen to a needy world, that the world may have hope. Separately, that "sap" which keeps all the branches healthy, gets stuck in blocked veins of animosity, distrust, bigotry and ignorance. Only open veins will allow the sap to flow. Only then can all the branches bear much fruit.

Ideas for observing the Week of Prayer January 18-25, 2021:

Call and check on a neighboring pastor or church leader

Invite and encourage groups that meet week for prayer and teaching to remember in prayer the call to unity.

On ecumenical Sunday (January 24th) remember pastors and churches of other denominations or faith groups in your area.

Finally, ask yourself what would work best in my community to observe the Week of Prayer?

Honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

On this holiday weekend we offer
our prayers of Thanksgiving for
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



Almighty God, by the hand of Moses your servant you led your people out of slavery, and made them free at last: Grant that your Church, following the example of your prophet Martin Luther King, may resist oppression in the name of your love, and may secure for all your children the blessed liberty of the Gospel of Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen. Holy Women, Holy Men*

Prayers for the Nation



Eternal God, in whose perfect kingdom no sword is drawn but the sword of righteousness, no strength known but the strength of love: So mightily spread abroad your Spirit, that all peoples may be gathered together under the banner of the Prince of Peace, as children of one God and Creator of us all; to whom be dominion and glory, now and forever.

- For Peace, Book of Common Prayer

Oh God, you made us in your own image and redeemed us through Jesus your son. Look now with compassion on the entire human family; and particularly this part of the family, in the United States, and those in our nation's capital; take away the arrogance and hatred which infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; unite us in bonds of love; and work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish your purposes on earth; that, in your good time, all nations and races may serve you in harmony around your heavenly throne; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

- For the Human Family, Book of Common Prayer

Save the dates for the March Annual Assembly via Zoom

Please save the dates of **March 1-2, 2021**, for the 51st Annual Assembly to be held via Zoom from 10 am to Noon on Monday, March 1st, and 10 am to Noon on Tuesday, March 2nd.

The meeting was originally scheduled to be held in Lake Charles, but that has been changed due to COVID and the hurricanes that have damaged the area. Our prayers remain with the peoples of southwestern Louisiana.