



Episcopal Diocese  
*of Northern California*

OFFICE OF  
THE BISHOP

January 19, 2026

Every year on the third Monday in January, we honor the life and work of Martin Luther King Jr., a prolific leader and organizer who initiated a cascade of positive change in the United States. This year, Dr. King's message resonates more loudly than ever as we face a mounting resurgence of oppression and injustice throughout the nation.

The Episcopal Diocese of Northern California remains firmly committed to the cause of racial justice, peaceful organizing, and tireless advocacy on behalf of all marginalized people. For more information about the work that the Episcopal Diocese of Northern California and other organizations throughout the diocese are doing in these areas, you can visit our [Migrant Support Network](#) or [Commission on Intercultural Ministries](#) webpage.

We encourage you to join us in lifting up the many wonderful people and organizations who are carrying on Dr. King's mission. If you are able, Martin Luther King Jr. Day is a wonderful time to join a community service event, attend a vigil, volunteer, or spend time learning more about racial justice and our nation's history.

Let us recommit ourselves today to becoming a force of light and love in order to drive out hate and darkness. Let us continually strive for peace and justice, to persevere in resisting evil, and to always love our neighbor as we love ourselves.

Please use [these resources](#) to learn, pray and act on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

A prayer by Dr. King:

**Dearest Jesus, come and sit with us today.** Show us the lies that are still embedded in the soul of America’s consciousness. Unmask the untruths we have made our best friends. For they seek our destruction. And we are being destroyed, Lord. **Reveal the ways the lies have distorted and destroyed our relationships.** They break your shalom . . . daily. Jesus, give us courage to embrace the truth about ourselves and you and our world. Truth: We are all made in your image. Truth: You are God; we are not. You are God; money is not. You are God; jails, bombs and bullets are not.

“And Jesus, give us faith to believe: Redemption of people, relationships, communities and whole nations is possible! **Give us faith enough to renounce the lies and tear down the walls that separate us** with our hands, with our feet, and with our votes!”

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., from [“Prayers of Martin Luther King Jr: A Brief Collection”](#) at [“Prayer and Politiks”](#) (bold emphases theirs).

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*[Making Disciples, Raising Up Saints & Transforming Communities for Christ](#)*

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