

The Bridge We Build

By Rev. Dr. Melissa M. Morral

Today, we gather as bridge builders.

Not just to remember history,

but to honor the people who shaped it with courage and conviction —

people who stood firm when standing meant risking everything.

Black history is not separate from American history.

It *is* American history.

It's the story of brilliance rising in the face of injustice.

Of voices that refused to be silenced.

Of hands that built, created, and healed —

even when the world tried to break them.

As someone who has not lived that struggle,

I stand here not to speak for, but to stand with —

to say that the fight for justice

belongs to all of us.

We can't change the past.

But we can choose what we do next.

We can choose to listen more than we speak.

To act more than we promise.

To build bridges strong enough for every one of us to cross — together.

So today, let's not just be inspired by history.

Let's commit to shaping it —

the kind of history future generations will thank us for.