

DAY OF SERVICE

*A Guide for Faith-at-Home in celebration of
Martin Luther King, Jr.*



READ

"Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me."

Matthew 25:34b-36

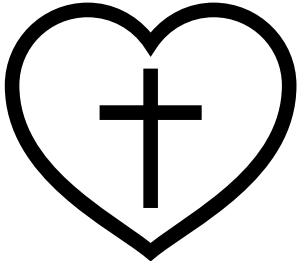


REFLECT

- Much of the suffering in our world comes from injustice--racial, economic, social. Martin Luther King, Jr., said, "It is not possible to be in favor of justice for some people and not be in favor of justice for all people." How does this statement impact you today?
- In our baptismal vows we promise to "strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being." Every human being is created in the image of God, and is loved by God. How is justice an expression of this love?
- This week is also significant in American democracy, as we acknowledge democracy in action with a transition of governing administrations. How does democracy connect with justice? What actions can we take to strengthen the participation of all people in our democracy?
- What is the difference between "ministering to" and "ministering with"?
- For children, challenges such as poverty, food insecurity, and racial injustice can be shared using an **aware, care, share** model. By building awareness of suffering and injustice, we build empathy and compassion. Ultimately, we are called to action, to share the time, talents and treasure we have received from God with others. Ask your children what challenges they see in the world, and how they are called by God to minister to their neighbors.



The Diocese of New Jersey



DAY OF SERVICE

A Guide for Faith-at-Home in commemoration of Martin Luther King, Jr.



DO

We are called by Christ to serve others. Find a service project in your local community, something that you [and your family] can do in coordination or in community with others. After engaging in the reflections, involve all members of your household in this discernment. If you cannot complete a project this weekend, make a firm commitment to complete it in the near future.

Remember that serving others is a lifelong Christian faith practice, and should be done all year long!



PRAY

O God, you made us in your own image and redeemed us through Jesus your Son: Look with compassion on the whole human family; 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.

Book of Common Prayer, Prayer for the Human Family



RESOURCES

- What is **Biblical Justice**? How do we achieve it? Learn more at <https://bibleproject.com/learn/justice/>
- **Jubilee Ministry** is an initiative of the Episcopal Church to engage congregations in the important work of empowering people to change their lives. <https://dioceseofnj.org/jubilee/>
- **Reconciliation** is the spiritual practice of seeking loving, liberating and life-giving relationship with God and one another, and striving to heal and transform injustice and brokenness in ourselves, our communities, institutions, and society. <https://episcopalchurch.org/racial-reconciliation>



The Diocese of New Jersey