

# Courage

## Points Us to the Light

*In Honor of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*

### Silent Reflection

Late in 1955, a young Baptist minister, fresh from graduate studies in Boston, was thrown into leadership of the Montgomery Bus Boycott. Martin Luther King, Jr., just 26 years old, was drafted to lead the boycott protest committee after Rosa Parks, a Montgomery seamstress, was thrown off the bus for refusing to give up her seat.



### Litany

Leader: Deep in the night, with shadows all around, we look for a light. God provides us with the light. In trying times, God gives us prophets and priests to stand up to political and religious leaders who pervert justice, the scribes and Pharisees of our day.

**All: We give thanks for those whose courage points us to the light.**

Leader: We remember the words of our prophet Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr when he said:

**All: "There comes a time when people get tired of being trampled over by the iron feet of oppression. If we are wrong – God Almighty is wrong."**

Leader: But God is not wrong and justice is not a lie. We serve a God who lifts up the weak and oppressed and challenges the mighty and powerful.

**All: We serve a God who gives us courage and light for bringing forth new ways of living and interacting with one another.**

Leader: In sacred scripture, it is said that God's intention is for the hungry to be fed.

**All: God give us courage to bring light to the world.**

Leader: In sacred scripture, it is said that liberty will come to the oppressed.

**All: God give us courage to bring light to the world.**

Leader: In sacred scripture, it is said that those who work the land will benefit from their labor; they will be adequately paid for their labor, even before the sweat dries on their brows.

**All: God give us courage to bring light to the world.**

Leader: We say this knowing that too often the courageous, the faithful, the prophetic, also became the martyred.

**All: We give thanks for those whose courage points us to the light.**

Leader: To honor those who have shown us the path, we commit to embody their spirit. We will become the ones we are waiting for.

**All: We promise to be courageous. We promise to be faithful. We promise to be prophetic. We, like our brother Martin Luther King, Jr., will walk the path that the faithful have shown us.**

Leader: God of vision; God of justice, thank you for this calling. Thank you for this path. Thank you for those persons of courage who point the way.

**All: Amen.**

### Prayer

Spirit of God, just as you filled the oceans with your life-sustaining waters, fill our hearts with the passion and courage to be in solidarity with those who struggle toward sustainability. Just as you brought light to end the night, bring vision to our weary eyes. Just as you set the planets in circling patterns of motion, lead us out of chaos into the dance of life. Just as our spiritual siblings Amos, Esther, Isaiah, Sojourner Truth, Mahatma Gandhi, and Martin King pointed to your intentions, make us people whose light shines on Your New Creation.

Amen.

**As you know, my friends, there comes a time when people get tired of being trampled over by the iron feet of oppression. If we are wrong – God almighty is wrong! If we are wrong, Jesus of Nazareth was merely a utopian dreamer and never came down to earth! If we are wrong, justice is a lie!**

*– Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*