

Litany for Justice and Siblinghood

All italicized words are direct quote from the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

POC: (Siblings of Color) W: (White siblings)

Leader: *In American life there is, and always has been, a real crisis in race relations.*

W: White supremacy and racial trauma, *"not only harms one physically, but it injures one spiritually. It scars the soul and distorts the personality."*

POC: May dignity and self-respect rise up Holy One.

All: The Holy One is our strength and our truth, and we know that change is gonna come. We who believe in freedom cannot rest until it comes.

Leader: *"It is sociologically true that privileged classes rarely ever give up their privileges without strong resistance."*

W: Forgive us, and make us willing to right this egregious wrong. It is the only way forward for true and lasting healing.

POC: *"It is also true that once oppressed people rise up against their oppression there is no stopping point short of full freedom."*

Leader: *"So realism impels us to admit that the struggle will continue until freedom is a reality for all of the oppressed peoples of the world."*

All: The Holy One is our strength and our truth, and we know that change is gonna come. We who believe in freedom cannot rest until it comes.

Leader: *"We shall overcome because arc of the universe is long, but it bends toward justice."*

POC: *"We can walk and never get weary, because we know that there will be a great camp meeting in the promised land of freedom and justice."*

W: In the *"deep rumblings of discontent"* may we come to understand in our hearts and in our churches that *"Love that does not satisfy Justice is no love at all."* Teach us your holy love, O God.

All: The Holy One is our strength and our truth, and we know that change is gonna come. We who believe in freedom cannot rest until it comes.

Leader: *"When evil people plot,
All: **good people must plan.**"*

Leader: *"When evil people burn and bomb,
All: **good people must build and bind.**"*

Leader: *"When evil people conspire to preserve an unjust status quo,
All: **good people must unite to bring about the birth of a society undergirded by justice.**"*

Leader: *"We must pray for a change of attitude in all those who violate human dignity and who rob men, women and little children of human decency. "*

All: May we have a restless determination to make a beautiful symphony of unity a reality in this nation and all over the world. We who believe in freedom cannot rest until it comes.

Leader: We pray for ourselves *"that we shall have the strength to move forward each day, knowing that our every act can emancipate us and can add compassion to the heart of our nation".*

W: We pray for the power that comes from loving our neighbor as we love ourselves.

POC: *"With a sense of somebodiness and self-respect, we affirm that human dignity and freedom is our destiny."*

All: The Holy One is our strength and our truth, and we know that change is gonna come. We who believe in freedom cannot rest until it comes.

Leader: *"And so if we go out with this faith and with this determination to solve these problems..."*

All: *"We will bring into being that new day and that new America. Yes, this will be the day when all of God's children, Black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands all over this nation and sing in*

the words of the old Negro spiritual: 'Free At Last, Free At Last. Thank God Almighty, We are Free At Last.'"

Leader: The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. calls to us to continue the dream.

All: Let justice roll down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream.
The Holy One is our strength and our truth, and we know that change is gonna come. We who believe in freedom cannot rest until it comes.