

LOVE OUT LOUD

NEWSLETTER

Sayings of Sister Thea Bowman, F.S.P.A.

"Sometimes people think they have to do big things in order to make change. But if each one would light a candle we'd have tremendous light."



"God's glory is revealed because we love one another across the barriers and boundaries of race, culture, and class."

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Weekly Scripture & Reflection

“He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? The voice of the Lord cries in the city--and it is sound wisdom to fear Your name...” Micah 6:8-9

BY PHOEBE "FIFI" RODRIGUEZ

Like our passage from Amos last week, Micah is another prophetic book full of reprimands against unjust people and shallow religiosity. And while these admonitions are meant to shake the reader into repentance, there is also something strangely comforting in them.

I pull each week's intentions from current events and news articles, and often in the process I find myself getting angry. I don't *want* to write about another act of violence or miscarriage of justice. But there is no shortage of them, and I can't bear to ignore them. In those moments, it is comforting for me to know that the God described in the Bible is one that gets angry as well. If I were to give every instance of racism in America the emotional energy it deserves, I would be unable to function. God is able to bear the full weight of this and all other issues, and still be God/ We often make one of the two opposite mistakes when addressing anger. The first is to demonize this natural feeling, to suppress it entirely, and ultimately ignore its causes. The second is to become so consumed by it that it twists into hatred or despair. When we make these mistakes as faith communities, the harm is compounded.

The words of the prophets invite us into a healthier way. They allow us to recognize that the emotions stirred up by injustice are healthy, even God-given. But they also protect us from being consumed; we do not have to bear the full weight of anger, or mourning, or exhaustion, because God and our communities bear it alongside us. The work God calls us to is hard. But He does not ask us to change the world all by ourselves. He asks only that we listen and walk humbly with Him.

Intentions for the Week of Feb 28-Mar 6

- From Thursday night to Friday night, Jewish people celebrated Purim, commemorating the Biblical Esther's rescue of her people from attempted genocide. Though a joyous holiday, Purim is also a stark reminder of the racial hatred alive in our world today. We pray against the ongoing genocide of the Rohingya and Uyghur peoples, and against the rising tide of anti-Semitism in our own country.
- Anti-Asian sentiment and violence has risen over the past year, possibly due to associating COVID-19 with East Asia. Scapegoating marginalized groups is a common response to fear and crisis, but it is unfair and highly dangerous. We pray that in the midst of uncertainty, people would instead come together in love and unity. We pray protection over the Asian-American community.
- So far, each edition of Love Out Loud has included a report of violence and injustice against Black Americans. Unfortunately, this week is no exception, as a grand jury ruled not to charge the officers involved in the death of Daniel Prude, an unarmed Black man experiencing a mental health crisis. Prude was vulnerable and in need of psychological care, and instead was met with violence. We pray for a world where Black people are not automatically seen as threats, where their needs are cared for and their well-being is valued. We pray for justice for Daniel Prude.

A Closing Prayer

FROM THE UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC
BISHOPS

O Lord our God, in your mercy and kindness, no thought of ours is left unnoticed, no desire or concern ignored. You have proven that blessings abound when we fall on our knees in prayer, and so we turn to you in our hour of need.

Surrounded by violence and cries for justice, we hear your voice telling us what is required, "Only to do justice and to love goodness, and to walk humbly with your God" (Mi 6:8). Fill us with your mercy so that we, in turn, may be merciful to others.

Strip away pride, suspicion, and racism so that we may seek peace and justice in our communities. Strengthen our hearts so that they beat only to the rhythm of your holy will. Flood our path with your light as we walk humbly toward a future filled with encounter and unity.

Be with us, O Lord, in our efforts, for only by the prompting of your grace can we progress toward virtue.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.