



As we remember our day of fasting and prayer on Friday, **August 11, 2017**, we remember to continue to “Follow in the footsteps of Jesus, as we commit ourselves to examine the root causes of injustice, **particularly racism.** We pledge prayer, education and advocacy and commit to using our resources in collaboration with others to establish justice which reflects God’s abundant love and desire that all may have life.” (LCWR Assembly Resolution, 2016)

Reflection:

Literature has often spoken of dreams. Martin Luther King, Jr. eloquently shared his dream in a speech at the Lincoln Memorial in 1963. Langston Hughes in his poem, “A Deferred Dream” asks what happens to a dream deferred? Does it dry up or does it explode?

- Have you ever had to defer a dream? What did it feel like to experience? Was there fear connected to the experience in any way?
- Have you ever been the object of hatred, prejudice or discrimination? What were the circumstances and how did you respond?

The dream cannot be deferred any longer. The injustice cannot continue. Holding each other in compassion and prayer we move forward on our journey together.

Let Us Pray:

O God of Mercy and Compassion open our hearts to your grace. We ask you to:

- Bless us with vision to seek alternatives when racism and violence appear to be the only solution.
- Encourage us to look deeply at our own complicity that allows racism and violence to continue in our own hearts and in our world.
- Bless us with tenacity to stay committed to the struggle to shape a more peaceful, nonviolent world for all people.

O good and gracious God, source of all life, all creation is charged with your Divine Energy. Grant us the strength and courage, we pray, for a radical transformation of our own lives and a deeper realization of your Kingdom among us. Amen