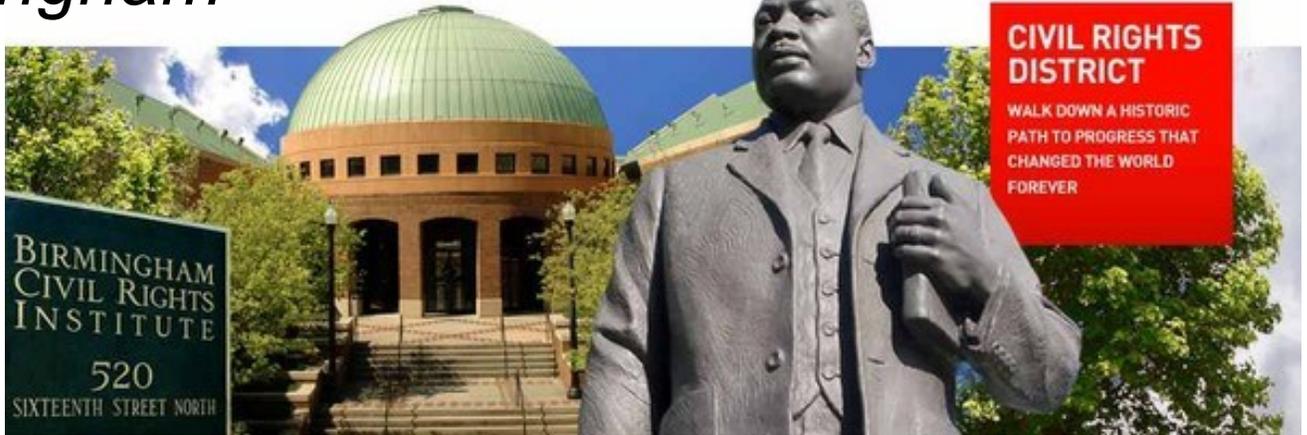


# 2026 Civil Rights Pilgrimage

## February 19-23

### *Birmingham*



### *Selma*

### *Montgomery*



*Episcopal*  
DIOCESE OF MICHIGAN



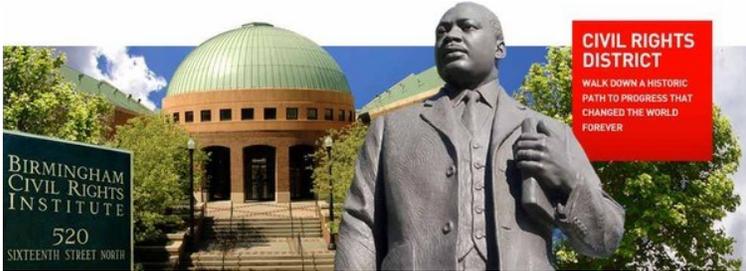
# Pilgrimage Schedule

## Thursday, February 19 - Welcome!

Arrive and settle in to the Hilton UAB Downtown, 808 20th Street South, Birmingham AL 35205  
We will have dinner and orientation in Cullom Parlor beginning at 6:30PM

## Friday February 20 - Pilgrimage programming begins!

8:00AM Breakfast at Hilton UAB in Cullom Parlor  
Morning Prayer/Orientation  
9:30 Check-out  
9:45 Charter Coach picks us up



9:55 Arrive in Birmingham Civil Rights District  
10:00 Birmingham Civil Rights Institute, 520 16th Street North, Birmingham AL 35203  
12:00 Box Lunch at BCRI  
1:30 Charter Coach leaves for Selma

3:30 Arrive Selma (Meet near 1018 Water Avenue, Selma AL 36701)  
3:45 Prayer Walk across Edmund Pettus Bridge  
5:00 Depart for Montgomery  
6:00 Arrive at StayBridge Suites  
Dinner on your own; an evening of rest



## Saturday February 21

Breakfast at hotel  
8:15 Morning Prayer  
9:00 The Legacy Museum 400 North Court Street, Montgomery AL 36104 (about a 10-minute walk)  
Lunch on our own



2:45 Memorial for Peace and Justice 417 Caroline Street Montgomery AL 36104  
Free shuttles are available to take you between the Legacy Sites  
4:30 Evening Prayer and facilitated reflection at hotel  
Dinner on our own

## Sunday February 22

9:00 Service at Church of the Good Shepherd 493 South Jackson Street Montgomery AL 36104  
1:00 Freedom Monument Sculpture Park 831 Walker Street, Montgomery AL 36104  
Free shuttles are available to take you between the Legacy Sites; you may also take a 15-minute boat ride from the Launch at 101 Morris Street to get to the Freedom Monument Park  
4:00 Gather at St. John's Episcopal Church 113 Madison Avenue, Montgomery AL 36104 for Evening Prayer, dinner, and facilitated discussion

## Monday February 23

Chartered coach picks us up by 10:00AM for return to Birmingham Airport

# Group Norms

Pilgrimage is a practice of prayer, reflection, learning, and building community. We are coming to this Pilgrimage with different life experiences; so, we will experience Pilgrimage differently, too. Allow yourself to fully enter your own, unique experience.

We will be on time for each other.

We will not attempt to manage any one else's experience.

We process differently; some need to converse, some need quiet, some write, some might need to take a walk. When we are together and you need space and/or quiet, and one of your fellow pilgrims who needs to talk comes to you, simply cross your arms over your chest as we do when requesting blessing instead of communion. When we are together and you need to talk in order to process, please find Sr. Vee; it's her joy and her vocation to listen to your experience!

It is not the role of our siblings of colour to provide context, to share, to teach, to explain, or to comfort. We will allow our siblings of colour to experience the Pilgrimage in their own way, and will make no demands on their time, memories, or wisdom.

When you need context, sharing, or explanation, please find Sr. Vee; it's her joy and her vocation!

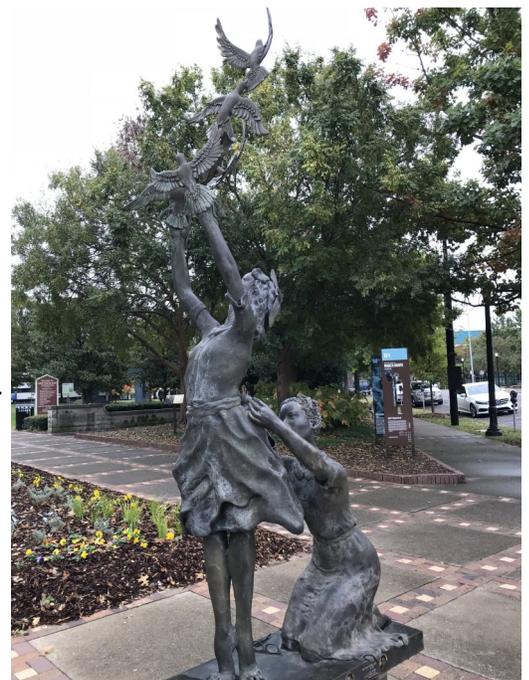
We will all practice being in uncomfortable places.

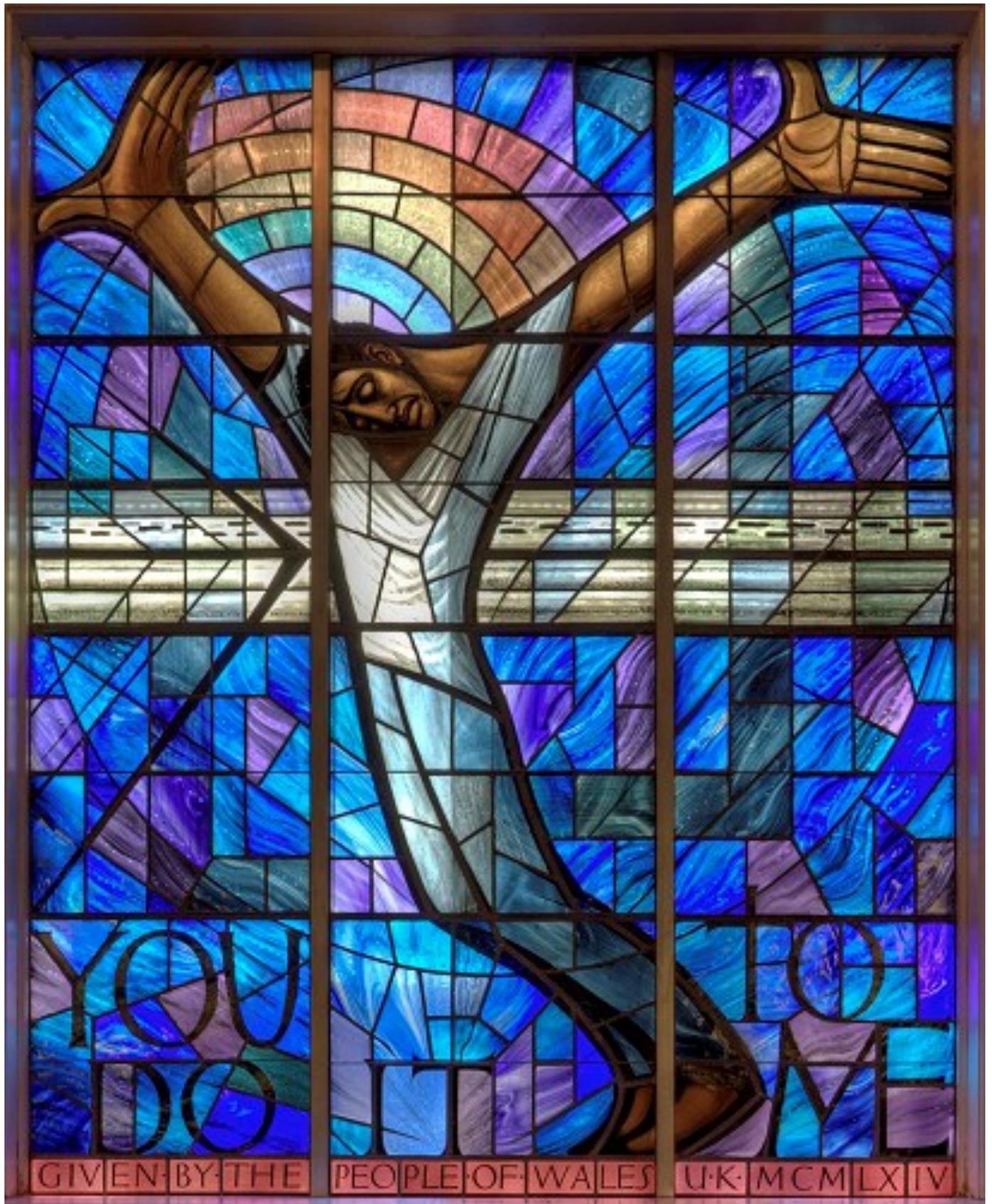
We are de-centering the comfort of our white siblings. We are engaging in hard truths. We are listening to stories that our siblings of African descent need to tell, and letting go of the desire to seek out only the stories we want to hear. If you find yourself needing to seek comfort in conversation or company, please find Sr. Vee; it's her joy and her vocation to walk beside you!

We will practice compassion toward self and others. When we need to step away we will step away. When we return we will seek those practices that strengthen us without making demands on others. Please find Sr. Vee for spiritual support; it's her joy and her vocation!

We will embrace not having immediate answers or clear solutions to the issues we learn about.

Every day we will find a moment to say to ourselves, "I am still learning. Thanks be to God!"





# Liturgies

## Thursday Night Compline

*Daily Prayer for All Seasons*

*We sum up this day with a bedtime prayer to examine our conscience and offer our actions to God.*

Opening      Give us the grace to rely on you:  
**may we always trust in your goodness.**

### Prayer

Enduring presence, goal and guide, you go before and await our coming. Only our thirst compels us beyond complaint to conversation, beyond rejection to relation. Pour your love into our hearts that, refreshed and renewed, we may invite others to the living water given to us in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Praise                      O God of gentle strength  
**O God of gentle strength, your love embraces me.  
Within the sureness of your care my heart rests willingly.  
Your waters of rebirth have claimed us as your own.  
As members of one body, we shall never be alone.  
And when life's challenges eclipse our minds with doubt,  
let holy wisdom spark a flame to drive the darkness out.  
Where will the journey lead? The path may be obscure.  
But promised hope of things unseen will keep our footing sure.**

Patricia B. Clark (b. 1938)

### Scripture

Isaiah 30:15a, 18

Thus says the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel: In returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and confidence shall be your strength. Therefore the Lord waits to be gracious to you; therefore he will rise up to show mercy to you. For the Lord is a God of justice; blessed are all those who wait for the Lord.

### Meditation

The birds have vanished into the sky,  
and now the last cloud drains away.  
We sit together, the mountain and me,  
until only the mountain remains.

Li Po, 8th-century poet

*What do we need to trust this fully in God's grace?*

### Prayers

Patient and compassionate God, we so want to trust in your love.  
**Hear our longing.**

We hope for healing in our lives and the lives of others:

*Here, we may add particular intercessions or thanksgivings.*

Hear our prayers  
**Heed our holy desires.**

We confess our impatience and anxiety.  
**We seek your grace.**

The Lord's Prayer

Prayer

O Lord and Ruler of our life: Deliver us from the spirit of sloth, idle talk, faint-heartedness, and lust for power; and grant unto us, your servants, a spirit of integrity, humility, patience and love. Sovereign God, grant us the ability to see our own faults and not to judge another's; for you are blessed to the ages of ages. Amen.

Closing      Give us the grace to rely on you:  
**may we always trust in your goodness.**

Friday Morning

Prayer Song from Ghana  
*as found in The Soul of a Pilgrim by Christine Valters Painter*

**Journeying God,  
Pitch your tent with mine so that I may not be deterred  
by hardship, strangeness, doubt.  
Show me the movement I must make  
toward a wealth not dependent on possessions,  
toward a wisdom not based on books,  
toward a strength not bolstered by might,  
toward a god not confined to heaven.  
Help me to find myself as I walk in others' shoes.**

Collect for Friday after Ash Wednesday

Support us, O Lord, with your gracious favor through the fast we have begun; that as we observe it by bodily self-denial, so we may fulfill it with inner sincerity of heart; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Wisdom

Before the summer of 2014, before we had seen Eric Garner dying on a Staten Island street and Michael Brown lifeless in the Missouri sun for hours, before the grand jury decisions and the die-ins that shut down interstates, we may have lulled ourselves into believing that the struggle was over, that it had all been taken care of back in 1964, that the marching and bloodshed had established, once and for all, the basic rights of people who had been at the bottom for centuries. We may have believed that, if nothing else, the civil rights movement had defined a bar beneath which we could not fall.

But history tells us otherwise. We seem to be in a continuing feedback loop of repeating a past that our country has yet to address. Our history is one spectacular achievement... followed by a violent backlash that threatens to erase the gains and then a long, slow climb to the next mountain, where the cycle begins again.

Isabel Wilkerson from her essay, *Where Do We Go from Here?*

## Prayer

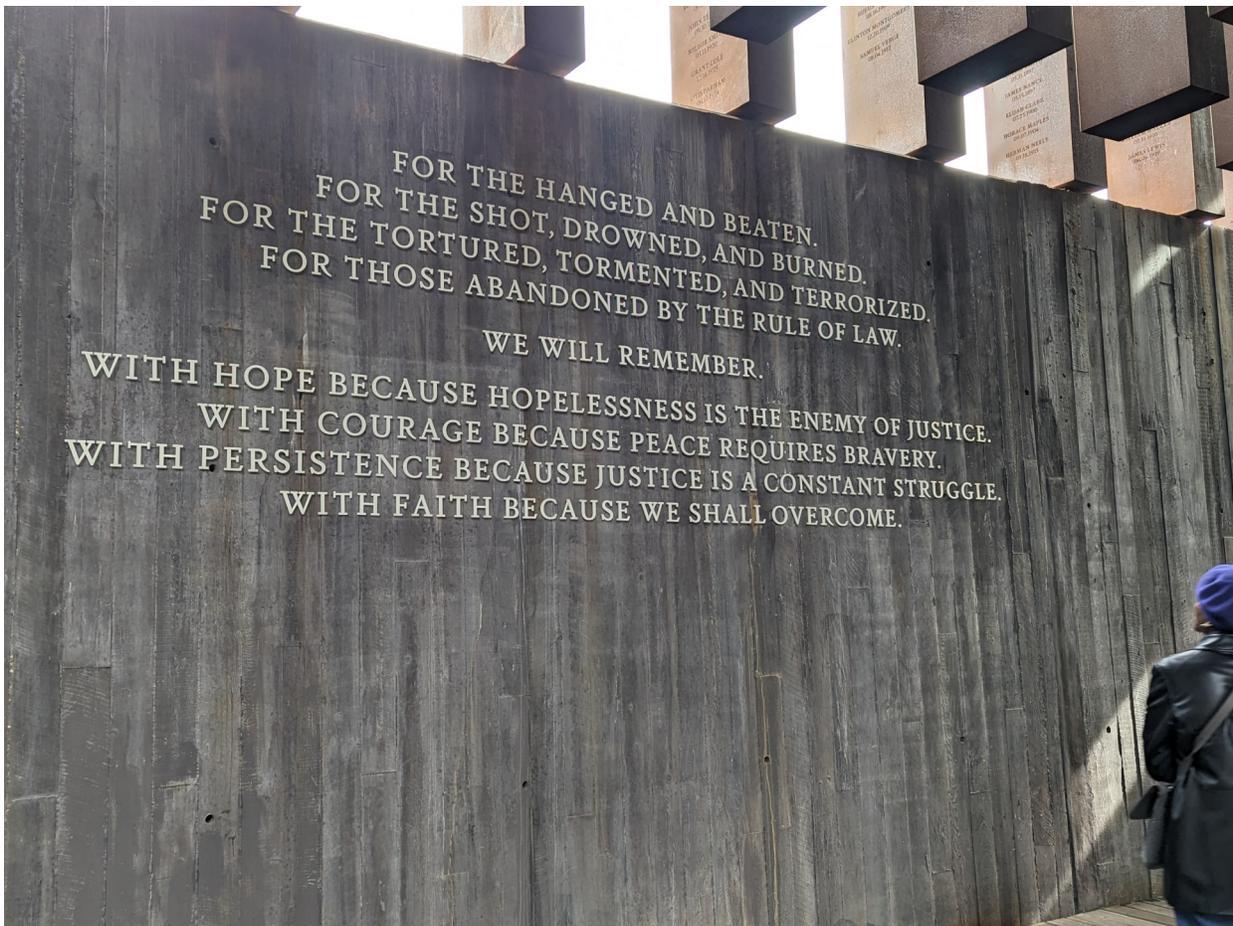
Sacred companions, we begin this day near to the divine, near to our ancestors, and near to our own souls. In the company of our fellow pilgrims, we ground our day in truth-telling, compassion, and the mystery of our humanity. As we move through this day, may we be granted the courage required for interior honesty, the self-possession required to remain in our bodies, and a renewed belief in our liberation.

Cole Arthur Riley

## Daily Prayer

**God our maker,  
We honor the sacred multitude that resides in you.  
May the guardian in you protect us.  
May the child in you delight in us.  
May the friend in you challenge us.  
May your ashes resurrect us.  
May your sky shelter us.  
May the mystery of you liberate us.  
Provide abundance and healing in all forms to those who need it today.  
And deliver us from shame, hatred, and the chains that bind us.  
For you have made us – Glory! – and we are still being made.  
Amen.**

Cole Arthur Riley



## Selma

### A Reflection on Holy Ground

At the Foot of the Bridge *We prepare to walk in the footsteps of saints*

Hebrews 12.1-3

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

Consider him who endured such hostility against himself from sinners, so that you may not grow weary or lose heart.

*We walk in silence*

On the Other Side *We pray*

A Litany of God-with-Us

Holy One, have mercy on us.

**Holy One, embody in us your mercy.**

Holy One, have mercy on us.

With Harriet Tubman and John Lewis, grant us faith and steadfastness; through your strength, keep us working for what is right. Create in us a clean heart, O God

**And renew a right spirit within us.**

With Howard Thurman and Audre Lorde, grant us knowledge of our genuine self that we may respond from the heart when you speak. Create in us a clean heart, O God

**And renew a right spirit within us.**

With Pauli Murray and Thurgood Marshall, grant us wisdom, stubbornness, and integrity to demand respect for the human dignity of all. Create in us a clean heart, O God

**And renew a right spirit within us.**

With Ibram Kendi and Isabel Wilkerson, may we seek and proclaim the truth, and grant that your Spirit may prick the conscience of the hard of heart. Create in us a clean heart, O God

**And renew a right spirit within us.**

With Frederick Douglass and Sojourner Truth, grant us the holy discontent that moves us beyond our own freedom to seek liberation for others. Create in us a clean heart, O God

**And renew a right spirit within us.**

With Toni Morrison and James Weldon Johnson, grant us the spirit to create joy and beauty even in the midst of suffering. Create in us a clean heart, O God

**And renew a right spirit within us.**

With Rosa Parks and Fannie Lou Hamer, grant us strength of character to step forward and speak up for ourselves when others would push us back and silence us. Create in us a clean heart, O God

**And renew a right spirit within us.**

With Ta-Nehisi Coates and Ida B. Wells, make us prophetic witnesses to the wrongs committed in our society, and may your Spirit humble those in power to repent and repair the harms that have been done. Create in us a clean heart, O God  
**And renew a right spirit within us.**

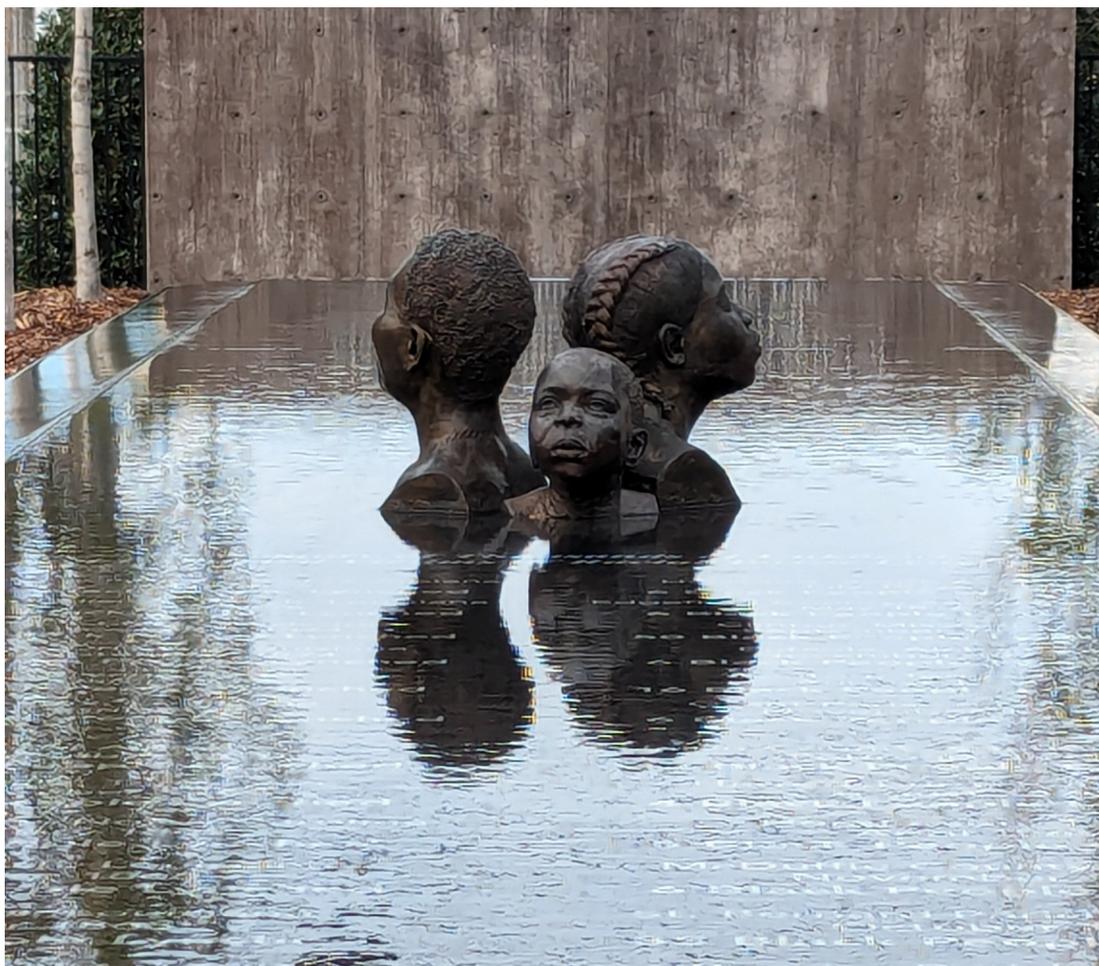
With Bayard Rustin and Coretta Scott King, give us the perseverance and humility to do the hard, essential work that goes unnoticed. Create in us a clean heart, O God  
**And renew a right spirit within us.**

With Martin Luther King, Jr., and Claudette Colvin, give us the willingness to follow where your Spirit leads, and may we never make peace with oppression, nor lose our humanity by embracing violence. Create in us a clean heart, O God  
**And renew a right spirit within us.**

With Desmond Tutu and James Baldwin, give us grace to understand and embrace the life-or-death necessity of love, especially loving those who do not love us. Create in us a clean heart, O God  
**And renew a right spirit within us.**

#### Blessing

In faith, in hope, and in love, may you continue to encounter yourself, blessed and broken, in the presence of God; and may you daily walk on that holy ground, learning, proclaiming, liberating, and repairing until justice rolls down like great waters, and righteousness like a mighty stream; and the blessing of God, Creator, Christ and Holy Spirit be among you now and always. **Amen.**



1. Guide my feet Lord, while I run this race.  
 2. Hold my hand Lord, while I run this race.  
 3. Stand by me Lord, while I run this race.

Guide my feet Lord, while I run this race.  
 Hold my hand Lord, while I run this race.  
 Stand by me Lord, while I run this race.

Guide my feet Lord, while I run this race, 'cause I  
 Hold my hand Lord, while I run this race. 'cause I  
 Stand by me Lord, while I run this race. 'cause I

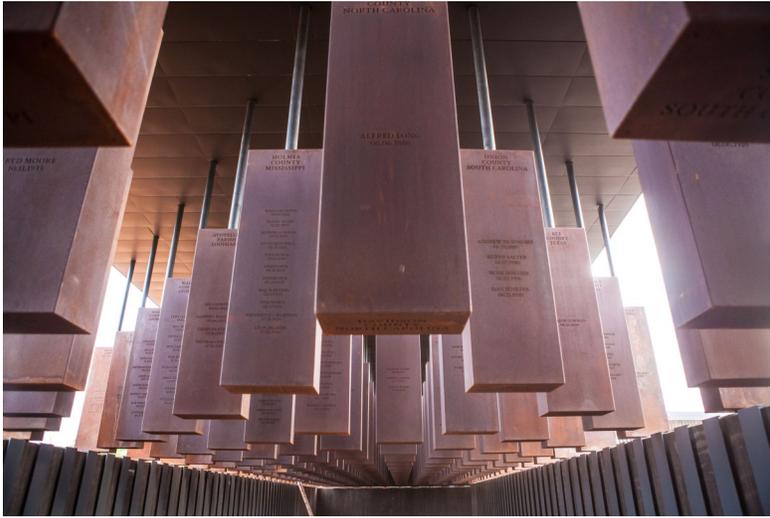
don't want to run this race in vain.  
 don't want to run this race in vain.  
 don't want to run this race in vain.

Music: African-American spiritual, arr. Carl Harris, Jr. (b. 1935).

## Saturday Morning

**Prayer**  
Sacred companions, we begin this day near to the divine, near to our ancestors, and near to our own souls. In the company of our fellow pilgrims, we ground our day in truth-telling, compassion, and the mystery of our humanity. As we move through this day, may we be granted the courage required for interior honesty, the self-possession required to remain in our bodies, and a renewed belief in our liberation.

Cole Arthur Riley



Collect for the Saturday after Ash Wednesday  
Almighty and everlasting God, mercifully look upon our infirmities, and in all our dangers and necessities stretch forth your right hand to help and defend us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

## Wisdom

...[W]e have learned that the journey is far from over and that we must know our history to gain strength for the days ahead. We must love ourselves even if - and perhaps especially if - others do not. We must keep our faith even as we work to make our country live up to its creed. And we must know deep in our bones and in our hearts that if the ancestors could survive the Middle Passage, we can survive anything.

Isabel Wilkerson from her essay, *Where Do We Go from Here?*

## Daily Prayer

**God our maker,  
We honor the sacred multitude that resides in you.  
May the guardian in you protect us.  
May the child in you delight in us.  
May the friend in you challenge us.  
May your ashes resurrect us.  
May your sky shelter us.  
May the mystery of you liberate us.  
Provide abundance and healing in all forms to those who need it today.  
And deliver us from shame, hatred, and the chains that bind us.  
For you have made us – Glory! – and we are still being made.  
Amen.**

Cole Arthur Riley

## Saturday Evening Prayer and Reflection

*Daily Prayer for All Seasons*

Opening      May our sacrifice be love  
**as we practice mercy on earth.**

### Prayer

God of love, the day is long and its burden is heavy: Give us grace to see your hand at work in the lives of those around us so that adversity will not overwhelm us, nor resentments possess us. Remain with us, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

Praise      A Song of the Wilderness      (Isaiah 35:1-4)

**The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, \***  
**the desert shall rejoice and blossom;**

**It shall blossom abundantly, \***  
**and rejoice with joy and singing.**

**They shall see the glory of the Lord, \***  
**the majesty of our God.**

**Strengthen the weary hands, \***  
**and make firm the feeble knees.**

**Say to the anxious, "Be strong, do not fear! \***  
**Here is your God, coming with judgment to save you."**

### Scripture

I John 4:7

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.

### Meditation

Teresa of Avila

We cannot know whether we love God although there may be strong reason for thinking so, but there can be no doubt about whether we love our neighbor or not. Be sure that, in proportion as you advance in affection for sisters and brothers, you are increasing your love of God.

*Who is hard to love just now? What would it cost us to love that one?*

### Prayers

O God, you beckon us with promises of love;  
**Fulfill our desire for you.**

You pursue us even when we flee from you;  
**Bring us to our right minds.**

You delight in us and show us your compassion;  
**Make us mindful of the deep need in the world.**

*Here, the people may add particular intercessions or thanksgivings.*

You give us the gift of your unbounded love;  
**Pour out your love on all the world.**

Lord's Prayer

Prayer

Merciful God, return us now to working and relating in our world; return us, stimulated by hope, strengthened by faith, and directed by love. Thus, we are heartened to reconcile all people, created, redeemed, and sustained by you. In the name of Christ. Amen.

Going Out    May our sacrifice be love  
**as we practice mercy on earth.**



## Sunday Evening Prayer

*Book of Common Prayer*

O God, make speed to save us.  
**O Lord, make haste to help us.**

Glory to God, Creator, Christ and Holy Spirit  
**As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

**O gracious Light, pure brightness of God,  
holy, blessed, incarnate in Jesus Christ.  
As evening draws on  
Our hearts hold Your light  
And in joy sing to You,  
The Undivided Trinity.  
Day and night Light and dark  
Your presence among us  
Overflows our hearts and opens our mouths with praise.**

Psalm 103

*Benedic, anima mea*

1 Bless the Lord, O my soul, \*  
**and all that is within me, bless his holy Name.**

2 Bless the Lord, O my soul, \*  
**and forget not all his benefits.**

3 He forgives all your sins \*  
**and heals all your infirmities;**

4 He redeems your life from the grave \*  
**and crowns you with mercy and loving-kindness;**

5 He satisfies you with good things, \*  
**and your youth is renewed like an eagle's.**

6 The Lord executes righteousness \*  
**and judgment for all who are oppressed.**

7 He made his ways known to Moses \*  
**and his works to the children of Israel.**

8 The Lord is full of compassion and mercy, \*  
**slow to anger and of great kindness.**

9 He will not always accuse us, \*  
**nor will he keep his anger for ever.**

10 He has not dealt with us according to our sins, \*  
**nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.**

11 For as the heavens are high above the earth, \*  
**so is his mercy great upon those who fear him.**

12 As far as the east is from the west, \*  
**so far has he removed our sins from us.**

13 As a father cares for his children, \*  
**so does the Lord care for those who fear him.**

14 For he himself knows whereof we are made; \*  
**he remembers that we are but dust.**

15 Our days are like the grass; \*  
**we flourish like a flower of the field;**

16 When the wind goes over it, it is gone, \*  
**and its place shall know it no more.**

17 But the merciful goodness of the Lord endures for ever  
on those who fear him, \*  
**and his righteousness on children's children;**

18 On those who keep his covenant \*  
**and remember his commandments and do them.**

19 The Lord has set his throne in heaven, \*  
**and his kingship has dominion over all.**

20 Bless the Lord, you angels of his,  
you mighty ones who do his bidding, \*  
**and hearken to the voice of his word.**

21 Bless the Lord, all you his hosts, \*  
**you ministers of his who do his will.**

22 Bless the Lord, all you works of his,  
in all places of his dominion; \*  
**bless the Lord, O my soul.**

The First Lesson

Daniel 9:3-10

Then I turned to the Lord God, to seek an answer by prayer and supplication with fasting and sackcloth and ashes. I prayed to the Lord my God and made confession, saying, 'Ah, Lord, great and awesome God, keeping covenant and steadfast love with those who love you and keep your commandments, we have sinned and done wrong, acted wickedly and rebelled, turning aside from your commandments and ordinances. We have not listened to your servants the prophets, who spoke in your name to our kings, our princes, and our ancestors, and to all the people of the land.

'Righteousness is on your side, O Lord, but open shame, as at this day, falls on us, the people of Judah, the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and all Israel, those who are near and those who are far away, in all the lands to which you have driven them, because of the treachery that they have committed against you. Open shame, O Lord, falls on us, our kings, our officials, and our ancestors, because we have sinned against you. To the Lord our God belong mercy and forgiveness, for we have rebelled against him, and have not obeyed the voice of the Lord our God by following his laws, which he set before us by his servants the prophets.

**My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
 my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; \***  
**for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.  
 From this day all generations will call me blessed: \***  
**the Almighty has done great things for me,  
 and holy is his Name.**  
**He has mercy on those who fear him \***  
**in every generation.**  
**He has shown the strength of his arm, \***  
**he has scattered the proud in their conceit.**  
**He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, \***  
**and has lifted up the lowly.**  
**He has filled the hungry with good things, \***  
**and the rich he has sent away empty.**  
**He has come to the help of his servant Israel, \***  
**for he has remembered his promise of mercy,  
 The promise he made to our fathers, \***  
**to Abraham and his children for ever.**  
**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \***  
**as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

## The Second Lesson

John 12:44-50

Then Jesus cried aloud: 'Whoever believes in me believes not in me but in him who sent me. And whoever sees me sees him who sent me. I have come as light into the world, so that everyone who believes in me should not remain in the darkness. I do not judge anyone who hears my words and does not keep them, for I came not to judge the world, but to save the world. The one who rejects me and does not receive my word has a judge; on the last day the word that I have spoken will serve as judge, for I have not spoken on my own, but the Father who sent me has himself given me a commandment about what to say and what to speak. And I know that his commandment is eternal life. What I speak, therefore, I speak just as the Father has told me.'

## Affirmation

*Daily Prayer for All Seasons*

**We are not alone; we live in God's world.**  
**We believe in God:**  
**who has created and is creating,  
 who has come in Jesus,  
 the Word made flesh,  
 to reconcile and make new,  
 who works in us and others by the Spirit.**  
**We trust in God.**  
**We are called to be the Church:**  
**to celebrate God's presence,  
 to live with respect in creation,  
 to love and serve others,  
 to seek justice and resist evil,  
 to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,  
 our judge and our hope.**  
**In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us.**  
**We are not alone. Thanks be to God.**

Lord's Prayer

**Creator Spirit, your name is Holy.**

**May your reign come, and your will be done  
on earth and in heaven.**

**Give us each day what we need to sustain us.**

**Forgive us our sins**

**and give us grace and courage to forgive those who sin against us.**

**In this time of trial, save us.**

**Deliver us from all that is evil;**

**for kingdom, power, and glory are yours alone,  
now and forever. Amen.**

Suffrages

V. Show us your mercy, O Lord;

**R. And grant us your salvation.**

V. Clothe your ministers with righteousness;

**R. Let your people sing with joy.**

V. Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;

**R. For only in you can we live in safety.**

V. Lord, keep this nation under your care;

**R. And guide us in the way of justice and truth.**

V. Let your way be known upon earth;

**R. Your saving health among all nations.**

V. Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;

**R. Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.**

V. Create in us clean hearts, O God;

**R. And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.**

Collect for the First Sunday in Lent

Almighty God, whose blessed Son was led by the Spirit to be tempted by Satan: Come quickly to help us who are assaulted by many temptations; and, as you know the weaknesses of each of us, let each one find you mighty to save; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

A Collect for Sundays

Lord God, whose Son our Savior Jesus Christ triumphed over the powers of death and prepared for us our place in the new Jerusalem: Grant that we, who have this day given thanks for his resurrection, may praise you in that City of which he is the light, and where he lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

O God, you manifest in your servants the signs of your presence: Send forth upon us the spirit of love, that in companionship with one another your abounding grace may increase among us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Prayer of St. Chrysostom

**Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. Amen.**

Officiant Let us bless the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

*Daily offices were adapted from Daily Prayer for All Seasons, and the Book of Common Prayer,  
along with selections from:*

*Black Liturgies by Cole Arthur Riley*

*The Fire This Time, edited by Jesmyn Ward*

*The Church Cracked Open by Stephanie Spellers*

*The Soul of a Pilgrim by Christine Valters Painter*

