



Grain

"One person standing on the Word of God is the majority." Maya Angelou
Submitted by Cindy Rieck, Appleton, WI

Field

"Hello babies, Welcome to Earth. It's hot in the summer and cold in the winter. It's round and wet and crowded. On the outside, babies, you've got a hundred years here. There's only one rule that I know of, babies – '... you've got to be kind.'" Kurt Vonnegut
Submitted by Bishop Mary Froiland, South-Central Synod

Thoughts

The poet, Maya Angelou, had a vision to "abolish the curse of racism in the world." Born in 1928, her quest was sometimes immensely unpopular, even though she eventually found like-minded co-workers in Malcolm X and the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. She talked about feeling unvalued in her early years growing up as a black girl in *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*.

In the grain for today, Angelou reminds us that when our actions and voice are based in the Word of God, even if we are physically alone or part of a small group, we participate in another majority. In our tradition we could also call that majority the communion of saints, the witnesses to Christ's love throughout history. I do not always presume to speak and act in a way that reflects God's word, but we are part of a tradition in which we can always confess and be forgiven and directed back to a path of justice. That path of justice is contagious. The gift of God's love is where we begin with our simple acts of kindness, advocacy and evangelism. Happy Monday!

Prayer

Highly recommended

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Many blessings upon you,

Pastor Cindy