



Grain

“We are the first generation to see the effects of climate change and the last to be able to do anything about it.”
Keya Chatterje, U.S. Climate Action Network (RE-AMP Conference)

Submitted by Vernita Kennen, White Bear Lake, MN

Field

“It really boils down to this: that all life is interrelated. We are all caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied into a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one destiny, affects all indirectly.”
The Reverend Doctor Martin Luther King, Jr

Thoughts

The words from last week, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” persist after a No in response to that question was launched from the White House in our president’s lingering remarks about Haiti and Africa. The question continues to challenge us in our own realms as we today celebrate the life of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Dr. King was very human and imperfect, but his Yes in response to the question of whether anything good can come out of Nazareth has resounded through the decades. His Yes was part of the realization of how everything is interrelated.

One of the profound ways we recognize our interrelatedness is in the environment. How we care for God’s creation in our own communities has a ripple effect in the broader world. When Dr. King traveled to Memphis, Tennessee to stand with black sanitation workers in a strike, he stood with people who were experiencing economic injustice and exposure to hazardous toxins. As part of what many considered to be Dr. King’s growing environmental and economic justice mission, he returned to Memphis several days later, where he planned to march with the sanitation workers on April 5, 1968, but he was assassinated the day before. Former Attorney General Eric Holder once said that the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. helped plant seeds for the environmental justice movement. “He left with us the creed that continues to guide our work. His enduring words, which he penned from a Birmingham jail cell, still remind us that, ‘Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.’”

Fifty years later, Keya Chatterje alerts us to an urgency: “We are the first generation to see the effects of climate change and the last to be able to do anything about it.” We are not just poetically, but scientifically interrelated. There are numerous ways to remember the vast work of Dr. King and the many known and unknown leaders he worked with; his cosmological vision is one. Happy Monday!

Prayer

Highly recommended.

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All Monday Quotes found under the Resources & Advocacy Tools tab at www.loppw.org

Many blessings upon you,

Pastor Cindy

ELCA Presiding Bishop responds to reported racist comments: <http://www.elca.org/News-and-Events/7906>

For more info on the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and the environment:

- <https://drewdellinger.org/pages/mlk>
- <https://www.cnsnews.com/news/article/dr-martin-luther-king-jr-helped-plant-seeds-environmental-justice-movement-says>
- <https://www.livescience.com/39210-the-environmental-movement-debt-to-martin-luther-king-jr.html>
- <https://www.dailykos.com/stories/2012/1/15/1054945/>
- <http://www.deanza.edu/faculty/sullivanmark/pdf/bullard.pdf>