

## Monday Quotes



### Grain

“Open your eyes to the beauty around you, open your mind to the wonders of life, open your heart to those who love you, and always be true to yourself.” –Maya Angelou  
Submitted by Vernita Kennen, Roseville, MN

### Field

“2 They had journeyed from Rephidim, entered the wilderness of Sinai, and camped in the wilderness; Israel camped there in front of the mountain. 3 Then Moses went up to God; the Lord called to him from the mountain, saying, ‘Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the Israelites: 4 You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. 5 Now therefore, if you obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession out of all the peoples. Indeed, the whole earth is mine, 6 but you shall be for me a priestly kingdom and a holy nation. These are the words that you shall speak to the Israelites.’ 7 So Moses came, summoned the elders of the people, and set before them all these words that the Lord had commanded him. 8 The people all answered as one: ‘Everything that the Lord has spoken we will do.’” Exodus 19: 2-8a

### Thoughts

The followers of Yahweh have reached a turning point. In the book of Exodus, they moved from being enslaved in Egypt and wandering in the wilderness to in chapter 19, experiencing God’s promise being fulfilled. As Rev. Dr. Ralph Jacobson points out, each new covenant between God and God’s people is preceded by disruption, which we see plenty of before the covenant in Sinai.

Based on the above paragraph, everyone could write their own reflection about their personal journeys and what is happening in society right now. When will we arrive? How long will grief rule my day? Is my life only about disruption? Where is the promise?

This is Pride month. When I more fully came out of the closet in 1998, I left the ordained ministry. Before the church opened its doors more officially to LGBTQ pastors, I often asked, “How long before the ELCA changes?” Would that even happen within my lifetime? I confess becoming convinced it would not, but it did. The journey is far from over but we have had a new beginning.

How long will black parents have to instruct their children about how to respond when stopped by the police, or to understand that certain rejections they’ll experience in life will have nothing to do with what they did or failed to do. There have been turning points (and harsh backlashes) in the 400 years since people of African descent were enslaved in this country. Are we reaching another turning point? That will have to be evaluated by those Americans who experience racism. But since George Floyd’s murder, there seems to be a broader admission of the insidiousness of white supremacy.

As people of God we hope and believe in new possibilities. We hope in a way that humbles us to listen and that stirs justified anger and our public voices in love. Happy Monday!

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Many Blessings upon you,

Pastor Cindy