

Meditation

“In the stillness of this moment there is peace, there is love. I am peace. I am love.

We Shall Be Known Karisha Longaker (MaMuse)

We shall be known by the company we keep,
by the ones who circle 'round to tend these fires.
We shall be known by the ones who sow and reap
the seeds of change alive from deep within the earth.

It is time now, It is time now that we thrive.
It is time we lead ourselves into the well.
It is time now, and what a time to be alive.

In this great turning we shall learn to lead in love.
In this great turning we shall learn to lead in love.

All inhabitants of the globe are now neighbors ~ Martin Luther King, Jr.

This is the great new problem of mankind. We have inherited a large house, a great world house in which we have to live together black and white, Easterner and Westerner, Gentile and Jew, Catholic and Protestant, Moslem and Hindu — a family unduly separated in ideas, culture and interest, who, because we can never again live apart, must learn somehow to live with each other in peace...**All inhabitants of the globe are now neighbors.**

From Bryan Stevenson, in *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption* (EJI.org)

“Proximity has taught me some basic and humbling truths, including this vital lesson: Each of us is more than the worst thing we've ever done. My work with the poor and the incarcerated has persuaded me that the opposite of poverty is not wealth; the opposite of poverty is justice. Finally, I've come to believe that the true measure of our commitment to justice, the character of our society, our commitment to the rule of law, fairness, and equality cannot be measured by how we treat the rich, the powerful, the privileged, and the respected among us. The true measure of our character is how we treat the poor, the disfavored, the accused, the incarcerated, and the condemned.”

From Sojourners [“22 bible verses on welcoming immigrants”](#)

Leviticus 19:33-34 (ESV)

“When a stranger sojourns with you in your land, you shall not do them wrong. 34 You shall treat the stranger who sojourns with you as the native among you, and you shall love them as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God.”

Deuteronomy 27:19 (NIV)

‘Cursed is anyone who withholds justice from the foreigner, the fatherless or the widow.’
Then all the people shall say, ‘Amen!’

Job 29:15-17

I was eyes to the blind, and feet to the lame. I was a parent to the needy, and I championed the cause of the stranger. I broke the fangs of the unrighteous, and made them drop their prey from their teeth.

Jeremiah 7:5-7

For if you truly amend your ways and your doings, if you truly act justly one with another, if you do not oppress the alien, the orphan, and the widow, or shed innocent blood in this place, and if you do not go after other gods to your own hurt, then I will dwell with you in this place, in the land that I gave of old to your ancestors forever and ever.

Ezekiel 47:22

You shall allot it as an inheritance for yourselves and for the aliens who reside among you and have begotten children among you. They shall be to you as citizens of Israel; with you they shall be allotted an inheritance among the tribes of Israel.

Zechariah 7:9-10

Thus says the Lord of hosts: Render true judgments, show kindness and mercy to one another; do not oppress the widow, the orphan, the alien, or the poor; and do not devise evil in your hearts against one another.

Matthew 25:35, 40

I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me. Truly I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these, you did it to me.

Romans 13:10

Love does no wrong to a neighbor, therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

Hebrews 13:1-3

Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them; those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured.

Psalm 146 (adapted)

Praise the Lord, O my soul!
I will praise the Holy Mystery as long as I live;
I will sing praises to my God all my life long.

Do not put your trust in princes,
in mortals, in whom there is no help.
When their breath departs, they return to the earth;
on that very day their plans perish.

Happy are those whose help is the God of our ancestors,
whose hope is in their Source,
who made heaven and earth,
the sea, and all that is in them;

who keeps faith forever;
who executes justice for the oppressed;
who gives food to the hungry.

The Lord of Mercy sets the prisoners free;
the Lord of Truth opens the eyes of the blind.
The Lord of Compassion lifts up those who are bowed down;
the Lord of Justice loves the righteous.
The Lord of Love watches over the strangers;
upholds the orphan and the widow,
but the way of the wicked will be brought to ruin.

The Ground of All Being will reign forever,
Your Source, O my people, for all generations.
Praise the Holy Mystery!

It is time now. Tend the fires in this company we keep.
And so it is! Amen.