

*“I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character.”*

*“We must learn to live together as brothers (and sisters) or perish together as fools.”*

*“It is not enough to say we must not wage war. It is necessary to love peace and sacrifice for it.”*

*“Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.”*

*“I refuse to believe that we are so bound to racism and war, that peace, brotherhood and sisterhood are not possible.”*

*“Love is the only force capable of transforming an enemy into friend.”*

*“The hottest place in Hell is reserved for those who remain neutral in times of great moral conflict.”*

*“I believe that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word in reality. I believe that right temporarily defeated is stronger than evil triumphant.”*

*“I believe that peoples everywhere can have three meals a day for their bodies, education and culture for their minds, and dignity, equality and freedom for their spirits.”*

*“Although the Church has been called to combat social evils, it has often remained silent behind the anesthetizing security of stained-glass windows... How often the Church has been an echo rather than a voice, a tail-light behind the Supreme Court and other secular agencies, rather than a headlight guiding men and women progressively and decisively to higher levels of understanding.”*

*God of all races and nations, we praise you for all your faithful servants who have done justice, loved mercy, and walked humbly with their God.*

*For apostles, martyrs, leaders, and saints, and for humble folk whose names were never in the news, but are recorded in your book of life, we give you thanks.*

*Especially this day we thank you for Martin Luther King Jr., for his courage and conviction, for his passion for peace, and for his tireless quest of a nation that keeps faith with its promises.*

*Help us to realize that although we have all come on different ships, we're in the same boat now. Open us to see that we are all your children and remind us to extend our hospitality to those in need. When in our humanness we neglect the ministries of love, peace, and justice, help us to be instruments of your reconciliation and peace.*

*Guide us to live by your vision, the vision that empowered Martin, working to build the beloved community where everyone is welcomed, all are valued, power is shared, privilege is no more, and all your people know wholeness and well-being. Through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.*

*“The hope of a secure and livable world lies with disciplined nonconformists who are dedicated to justice, peace, sisterhood and brotherhood.”*

