

in solidarity

AROUND THE SHABBAT TABLE



Shabbat is about imagining a better world, and considering the actions we need to take to make that world a reality.

Whether Friday night is a time to engage in powerful conversation, or a time to take a break from the work of change-making, this is just the one of many ways we can amplify Black voices at our tables and prepare ourselves for the work — and the world — to come.

A prayer for protesters

by April Baskin of @joyous.justice
for @modern_ritual

Beloved siblings striving for justice,
Sh'mah!

Listen. Closely. At all times.

My prayer for you

is that you remember protest
is a sacred act.

Just as the Mourner's Kaddish
helps souls ascend to God,

May our cries soothe those

whose lives were prematurely extinguished.

And rattle the bones and stones
of leaders and institutions.

Leaving no question about the fact

that things are never going back,
only forward,

Because more of us are clear

that "We have nothing to lose but our chains."

We affirm we are a multiracial people,

and we will stand strong, humbly, and proud

as we follow and work in partnership

with black leaders, as we take steady strides

in the direction of collective liberation.

We heard George Floyd cry “I can’t breathe” and “Momma, I love you” on the recording of his lynching in the streets of Minneapolis. We have watched as crowds of people—black, white, and brown; gay, straight, and trans—have taken to those same streets to cry out against systemic racism. Thank God people are in the streets, refusing to accept what has been seen as normal for far too long.

We all know what racism looks like. The mentality that crushes a brother’s neck or shoots a man jogging because of his skin color is the same mentality that sends black and brown and poor and low-income workers of all colors into the lethal path of the COVID-19 pandemic without needed protections, health care and economic resources.

Whether it is police abuse of power or policy abuse of power, these deaths serve as a collective knee on the necks of people of color. The people’s demand for love, truth, justice and fundamental human rights is a cry that will not be comforted until change fully comes. Please continue to speak truth to power and hold this nation accountable for its violence.

—**Rev. Dr. William Barber and Rev. Dr. Liz Theoharis,**
Co-Chairs of the *Poor People’s Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival*

Reasons why I'm still in bed

By Rudy Francisco

Because it's been a rough year

And it's only June.

Because it's been a rough week

And it's only Monday.

Because it's been a rough day

And it's only 10 am.

Because lately all my favorite memories are here

And sometimes,

You have to turn the day off,

Turn it back on again

And hope it's fixed.

In 1963, Catholic, Jewish, and Protestant organizations gathered to discuss America's racial problems at the National Conference on Religion and Race. The four-day gathering was hailed by Martin Luther King as the most significant and historic convention ever held for attacking racial injustice. In his speech, Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel said:

Our concern must be expressed not symbolically, but literally; not only publicly, but also privately; not only occasionally, but regularly. What we need is the involvement of every one of us as individuals. What we need is restlessness, a constant awareness of the monstrosity of injustice.

May Shabbat be a time not only for rest, but to cultivate the restlessness necessary to continue the fight against racial injustice.

in partnership

Our partners at [Repair the World](#) are on a mission to mobilize Jews and their communities to take action to pursue a just world. They put together a few ways you can take action, by learning and supporting the fight for racial justice:

LEARN

- Read [this account](#) from Black Jews responding to George Floyd protests in their own words.
- Listen to the Black community by reading this article, [What We in the Black Community Need from Jews Right Now](#).
- Review [75 Things White People Can Do for Racial Justice](#).
- Understand the [Language of Activism](#) through this resource on how to use terms like “Ally” vs “Accomplice”.
- Learn about and support [Campaign Zero](#), the hub for policy solutions to end police violence in America.
- Dive into these [Resources for Racial Healing and Action](#).
- Connect with [Be'chol Lashon](#), [Dimensions Educational Consulting](#), [Jewish Multiracial Network](#), [Jews of Color Field Building Initiative](#), and other organizations elevating and centering Jews of Color.
- Read these [Rules of Engagement for White Jews](#) engaging in Black Lives Matter movement building.

TAKE ACTION

- [Volunteer](#) locally and volunteer often. Volunteering brings us closer to our neighbors and builds community across lines of difference. Communities are aware that an increase in crowds will lead to an increase in needs in the wake of COVID-19. Serving your community is needed now more than ever.
- Join a local [SURJ \(Showing Up for Racial Justice\) Chapter](#) and get engaged with the struggle for racial justice in your community
- Donate to local organizations fighting for racial justice in your community.
- Amplify voices of Black Americans and People of Color on social media and in all of your platforms and networks.



With gratitude to the voices in this collection, we also thank April Baskin for helping us curate this collection. The pursuit of justice is ongoing, and OneTable is committed to doing the work necessary for true equity in our society. We will continue to share words, art, reflections, and actions we can all take as we seek to create a better world.