

Meditation and prayer
First Unitarian Church of Baltimore
January 18, 2009
Rev. Lyn Oglesby, Ph.D.

O wonder of wonders, mystery of mysteries, spirit of life that is beyond our comprehension, God whom we call by many names...

Aware of our shortcomings, recognizing that we are not all that we might be, we come to gather strength and courage to face this day and the days ahead.

However we voted, we are all dedicated to supporting our new president's efforts to solve the many national and international problems that confront him, and that confront us. We know that by working together we can achieve more than by dividing and engaging in fruitless conflict. It is incumbent on us to speak to power, and to stand up when we see injustice, and when we see our earth being violated. It is also incumbent on us to develop strength and to search for ways to use our strength to collaborate, to cooperate and to come to peaceful solutions. Although we often overestimate our rational problem-solving capabilities, we seldom use them optimally. Let us learn to step back and make the most of whatever powers we have.

Let us focus our lives on some primary good, some critical cause, some ideal to further, and concentrate our energies on those higher priorities, rather than allowing our strength to dissipate to no end. We can do more than we think we can do. If we just think about it. We can still enjoy life even if we eliminate some frivolities and use the time more purposefully.

Yes, there is so much to do, and so little time. So many books to read, so many good deeds to do. Thus we might focus our minds and our energies and our priorities on the big issues that concern us.

Let us give thanks for the life and wisdom and influence of Rev. Dr.

Martin Luther King, whose example we would all do well to follow. He has inspired our ministries, provided us with an example of moral courage, and expanded the freedoms of millions.

Let us give thanks for the energy and brilliance of our new president, and his ability to work with those who agree with him and also who disagree with him. Only through genuine dialogue, diplomacy and cooperation can we emerge from the crises that confront us. Let wisdom and patience guide Barack Obama, and each of us, as we confront new paradigms and complex challenges. Above all, let peace, love and justice emerge along with health, wisdom, and prosperity.

Let us use increased patience with our children and those who irritate us. Let us never forget that those who attack us in anger are most likely suffering from some kind of pain and hurt. Remembering that often helps to soften our responses to angry attacks.

Let us think not so much about what we want, but what we have. Let us take time each day to enjoy laughter, and to spread it. Let us not forget that little things mean a lot, especially to a friend who is sick, a neighbor who is lonely, or someone who has just lost a job.

Let us remember to call our dear friends and family and to remind them that we love them and care about them. Don't wait for a birthday, do it today.

Many prophets and leaders have provided us with models and frameworks for enriching our spiritual and religious lives. Whatever our theology, we have room in our lives to read an extra poem, to study another scripture, to sing another song, to dance another dance.

And in the words of Langston Hughes, let us hold fast to dreams, for if dreams die, life is like a broken-winged bird that cannot fly. Let us dream mightily, love passionately, create meaning, and water the seeds and plants of

justice until justice blooms all around. Amen