

SATORU

Special

MEMORIAL SERVICES HELD FOR REV. MARTIN LUTHER KING

THE FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF THE BRIEF MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING

HELD ON FRIDAY, APRIL 5, 1967, AT 12:30 P.M.

President Schueler:

On our behalf in the shock and realization of his passing and in the deepest grief we have this short memorial service in his memory.
Mr. Robert Chiles will lead us in prayer.

Dean Chiles:

Let us pray.

Our Father, we are met in grief this day in memory of thy faithful servant Martin Luther King. We rejoice in thy gift to us of a man devoted to truth, zealous for righteousness, and fearless in the cause of his oppressed race. His unstinting service had redressed grievous injustice and restored hope to millions of his people; for him and his brave ministry of calm persuasion we give thee thanks.

Our Father, we are met in shame this day in the knowledge of what we have done. We have claimed advantage at the cost of shameful suffering to others; we have rejected the pleas and strivings of our brothers; we have subjected them to indignity, dishonor and destitution; we have sought to preserve our pretension to virtue in defiance of the imperative demand for justice. The mute evidence of our indifference, selfishness and hostility is the lifeless body of a courageous man.

O Thou whose righteousness is eternal and unfailing, spare not thy judgment on our hardness of heart; exact from us contrition and amendment of life; impose on us that sacrifice and service that will one day enable all men to live in simple human dignity.

Bless we beseech Thee the family and followers of this man whose loss we share; sustain and support them in these dark days; assure them that the one they loved has not died in vain. Bless them even as Thou dost forgive us.

O Thou who art acquainted with the darkness of our lives, and doth will nobler things for us, move us by the heroic martyrdom of thy departed servant to embrace his cause and his people that thy righteousness might prevail and all men might live together as brothers. Amen.

President Schueler:

Professor Errol Hill will read a poem by George Campbell.

Prof. Hill:

HOLY

Holy be the white head of a Negro
Sacred be the black flax of a black child
Holy be
The golden down
That will stream in the waves of the winds
And will thin like dispersing cloud
Holy be
Heads of Chinese hair
Sea calm, sea impersonal

Deep flowering of the mellow and traditional.
Heads of peoples fair
Bright shimmering from the riches of their species;
Heads of Indians
With feeling of distance and space and dusk;
Heads of wheaten gold,
Heads of peoples dark
So strong, so original;
All of the earth and the sun!

George Campbell
(Jamaica)

President Schueler:

We have prayed for Martin Luther King when in truth we should pray for ourselves, for in many ways, large and small, we are all responsible. It is not that we hate; we seldom do; it is not that we are bigoted, we very rarely are; but too often we are complacent; too often we are indifferent. It is fitting that in closing I read a short poem written by Martin Luther King.

I can't be what I ought to be,
Unless you are what you ought to be.
And you can't be what you ought to be,
Unless I am what I ought to be.

Martin Luther King, Jr.