

Press Release:

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Christians for Nonviolence ~ Syracuse

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Voices of Love in Times of Fear

Leaders of Christian congregations in Syracuse and the surrounding area will lead a candlelight vigil at 5:30 pm, Martin Luther King Day, January 19, 2026. The event is organized on the theme 'Voices of Love in Times of Fear'. It will be held at Cathedral Square, the plaza between the Onondaga County Courthouse and the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception.

This gathering is being organized in response to the violence being done to individuals and families in America by federal agents, including the separation of children from their parents and shootings of unarmed Americans. People who support nonviolence from all faith traditions, or of no particular faith tradition, are invited to attend. Handheld posters no larger than 11x17 inches are welcome.

One of the organizers, the Rev. Philip Major, rector of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, stated, "We affirm the importance and value of interfaith and non-religious responses to the violence that is hurting the people of America. We follow Jesus' example in welcoming all people to join us. We also follow the example of Martin Luther King, Jr. in responding to the current crisis from our faith. We follow Dr. King's example when we follow Jesus' instructions to love all people, even those who behave as if they are our enemies. We strive to be voices of love in a time of fear."

The event will be 30 minutes in length, and will be led by clergy from local Christian congregations. The program will include prayers, periods of silence, readings from the writings of Martin Luther King, Jr. and from Holy Scripture, and peaceful singing.

In case of heavy rain or snow, the event will be held at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 220 East Fayette Street. For more information about the event, write to Christians4nonviolence@gmail.com.

A planning meeting for leaders of congregations is scheduled for 2 pm, Saturday, January 17th. Please write to Christians4nonviolence@gmail.com for more information and a link to the meeting.