

Prophetic Listening to the Inauguration 2025

An Invitation to Prophetic Listening: A Sacred Call to Hear and Respond

This guide is adapted from a resource created by **REPAIRERS OF THE BREACH**, a national organization that trains moral leaders and builds social justice movements rooted in a framework that uplifts our deepest moral and constitutional values. They assert that it is more than a coincidence that the **47th President of the United States inauguration and the commemoration of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday coincide on January 20, 2025**. And they affirm: “As we gather January 20 for this sacred moment of reflection and action, we are inspired by Isaiah:

*The Lord God gave me an educated tongue
to know how to respond to the weary
with a word that will awaken them in the morning.
God awakens my ear in the morning to listen,
as educated people do.
The Lord God opened my ear;
I didn't rebel; I didn't turn my back.
Instead, I gave my body to attackers,
and my cheeks to beard pluckers.
I didn't hide my face
from insults and spitting.*

- Isaiah 50:4-6 (Common English Bible)

These profound words call us into the practice of prophetic listening—a holy discipline of attuning our hearts and minds to the voice of Love, to each other, and to the cries of a weary world. Through listening, we are not merely passive observers but active participants in a “free and responsible search for truth and meaning.” This day, we commit to hearing the voice of justice, lifting up the weary, and equipping ourselves with the courage to respond faithfully to this defining moment in our nation's history. Let us come together in unity, humility, and hope as we seek to be vessels of prophetic truth and moral clarity.

Because we believe a vision of love and a moral agenda is needed for the establishment of justice and promotion of domestic tranquility and because we, as people of faith, know that the beloved community Dr. King and the civil rights movement worked to realize requires us to publicly challenge the abuse of political power and because we continue to believe that the movement for love, justice and mercy has the power to transform political possibilities, **we are calling the faith communities across the length and breadth of this land to engage with us in the spiritual discipline of listening, prophetic listening on the King Holiday and the Inauguration of the 47th President of the United States.**

As we prepare to listen prophetically with an “awakened ear like one being instructed,” we keep Isaiah 50 front and center, and we keep the [King Center's six steps of nonviolent social change](#) before us:

- **Information gathering:** Learn about the problems and speak with those affected.
- **Education:** Use the information gathered to educate others about the issues.
- **Personal commitment:** Prepare for obstacles and inspire others.
- **Negotiation:** Use humor, grace, and intelligence to find solutions.
- **Direct action:** Use peaceful demonstrations, letter-writing, and civil disobedience.
- **Reconciliation:** Keep actions peaceful and constructive.

1. Preparing for Prophetic Listening

a. Ground Yourself in Meditation/Prayer: Seek courage to listen for truth beyond preconceptions.

Example: May we cultivate ears to hear truth, hearts to discern wisdom, and courage to act for justice. Let us see all things through the lens of Beloved Community."

b. Equip Yourself with Sacred, Secular and Scientific Sources: Anchor yourself in prioritizing texts:

- **Amos 5:24:** "let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream"
- **James 1:22:** "be doers of the word and not only hearers"
- **Surah Al-Ma'un (107:1-3):** "woe to those who refuse to help the needy"
- **Confucius** "In a country well governed, poverty is something to be ashamed of."
- **FDR:** "The test of our progress is not whether we add more to the abundance of those who have much; it is whether we provide enough for those who have too little."

c) Read the [Preamble to the U.S. Constitution](#)...look at the articles and amendments, particularly the 14th Amendment....what does general welfare mean and establishing justice?

d) Consider singing or listening to the music and words of ["Lift Every Voice and Sing;"](#) ["We Are a Gentle, Angry People,"](#) and ["Make Them Hear You."](#)

e) Set Your Focus: Prepare to listen for:

- **Unity or Division:** Does the message foster peace and justice?
- **Commitments to Justice:** Are the needs of the marginalized prioritized?
- **Moral Implications:** What values are uplifted?

2. During the Inauguration: Active Prophetic Listening

a. Listen with Discernment: Ask these key questions:

- **Language of Inclusion:** Who is acknowledged, and who is ignored?
- **Commitments to Justice:** Are concrete plans proposed to address poverty, inequality, or climate justice?
- **The Tone of Leadership:** Is it one of humility and service or self-interest and power consolidation?

b. Take Notes and Reflect: Write down key phrases, policies, or omissions that align or conflict with our commitments to justice.

c. Ask Prophetic Questions:

- Who benefits from these policies? Who bears the cost?
- Are systemic injustices addressed or perpetuated?
- Whose voices are absent or marginalized?

3. Post-Inauguration Reflection and Discernment

a. Gather and Reflect: Meet with your faith community or peers to share observations.

b. Key Questions to Reflect On:

- What stood out in the speech?
- Were the needs of the poor and vulnerable centered?
- How did the message reflect (or fail to reflect) a vision of justice and equity?

c. Prayerful Response: Conclude with an invocation of wisdom and courage to act.

Example: "May we be guided to discern truth, challenge injustice, and act as agents of positive change in the world. Let our commitment to justice flow like a river through our words and deeds. And in our community, may we find strength in shared values and inspiration in diversity. Let us work together to create a more equitable and compassionate world for all."

4. Turning Prophetic Listening into Prophetic Action

Prophetic listening requires a faithful response:

- **Advocate for Justice:** Address issues raised (or ignored) during the speech.
Example: If poverty or healthcare disparities were omitted, join efforts to advocate for change.
- **Amplify Marginalized Voices:** Center the stories and struggles of the poor, oppressed, and excluded in your ministry and communities.
- **Partner for Change:** Collaborate with us or other organizations working toward justice and equity.
- **Commit to Prayer and Accountability:** Invoke blessings on leaders while holding them accountable to the demand for justice.

5. A Prophetic Charge: Listening and Doing

Prophetic listening transforms hearing into action. Let this guide inspire you to embody the call for justice, equity, and compassion.

Sacred Charge (Isaiah 50:4-5):

"The Sovereign Lord has given me a well-instructed tongue, to know the word that sustains the weary... I have not turned away."

Closing Commitment:

As advocates for justice, let us listen carefully, speak truthfully, and act boldly for a just and compassionate world.