

Dear Friends,

On this Martin Luther King Jr. Day, we may find ourselves more focused on the day's nightmarish headlines than Dr. King's dream for America. But I say to you beware of spending too much time watering the seeds of despair spread with every news cycle.

Those who are perpetuating the present nightmare on our nation and world may appear strong, even unstoppable. But in fact, they are weak. False prophets for whom peace is a prize to hang on gilded walls rather than cultivate in one's heart and mind.

Indeed, as it is written in the Christian gospels, "Ye shall know them by their fruits."

Truly strong people do not undermine the rule of law.

They do not threaten allies and praise evildoers.

The truly strong do not thump their chests believing they are above reproach.

They do not need to dominate, demonize, or oppress others to feel good about themselves, their faith, or their country.

It is easy to act strong when you hold positional power and surround yourself with sycophants and enablers.

It is easy to pretend you are strong when you are cocooned in tactical gear, masked, and pointing a gun at an unarmed mother.

Easy to think you are strong when you're daily a subject of conversation around the world.

But strength reliant on position, flatterers, armor, weaponry, and constant attention is a mirage.

It's not that the danger posed by those who think themselves strong isn't real. It is.

But knowing their strength is a charade is a crucial component of resistance. For it releases us from the task of watering the seeds of despair and succumbing to the temptation to return evil for evil.

Dr. King knew this. This is why he spoke not of getting even, but of having a dream.

There's no time like the present to re-focus on our dreams for ourselves, our nation, and our world. For to choose to dream amidst a nightmare is a powerful act of resistance. An act that requires actual strength.

Strength we build embracing, proclaiming AND living into our shared values: interdependence, pluralism, justice, transformation, generosity, and equity [UUASharedValues](#).

Strength we demonstrate caring for others AND ourselves: feeding our neighbors, participating in peaceful demonstrations, contact with our legislators, giving of time and/or treasure to causes that promote justice for all people, gathering in community, and making time for rest and the appreciation of beauty.

The dreams we dare to dream are powerful. Do not cede that power to the cynics presently in power. Instead, be strong. And in the spirit of Dr. King, dare to dream.

Peace and blessings,  
Rev. Craig

