

## **We All Stand Together**

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When we all stand together, we change the way we live;  
Begin to stop the hatred, start reaching out to give.  
When we all stand together, no matter race or skin,  
Then we can learn forever, how peace and love begin.  
When we all stand together...  
When we all stand together, and we look into our souls,  
And discover in the future, there's a world to behold.  
When we all stand together, each gathered in our homes,  
And find our family unity as one, but not alone!  
When we all stand together...  
When we all stand together, we'll open up our hearts,  
And light the burning passion, to go and do our part.  
When we all stand together, believe in what we pray,  
Deliver on our promise, to find a better way!  
When we all stand together, fulfill our hopes and dreams.  
As we repair the world, every shattered peace.  
When we all stand together, and learn to sing this song,  
Miracles can happen, and together we'll be strong!  
When we all stand together...

## **Turning of the World**

*Music & Lyrics: Ruth Pelham*

Let us sing this song for the turning of the world  
That we may turn as one.  
With every voice, with every song,  
we will move this world along,  
And our lives will feel the echo of our turning.

With every voice, with every song,  
we will move this world along, (2x)  
And our lives will feel the echo of our turning.

2) loving/love    3) healing/heal    4) dreaming/dream

## **READING #1**

These are tough times. These are difficult days. We've all suffered under the thick fog of a global pandemic that has exposed longstanding inequities.

Work that is yet unfinished. The building of what Dr. King and others called "the beloved community." And as we come once again to this moment, I am inspired by the prophet Nehemiah who taught that Faith is taking the first step.

Nehemiah, that bold, brilliant and trailblazing brother who set out during difficult days to rebuild that which was broken. He saw a big problem and decided to do something about it.

Thank God for Nehemiah, who was cupbearer to the king. And, therefore, he had a prize location. He was relatively comfortable. He had a good government job. But he was concerned about those who were uncomfortable. Those who are unprotected.

And when he heard that the wall had been broken and the gates had been burned, and the city was no longer safe, and the children were no longer protected, he decided to take a risk. Stick his neck out and do something about it.

I submit that that's what we need now, in our community, in our city, in our nation. We need folks who don't mind blazing a new path in order to get a new result. And so while other folks were whining and wondering and wallowing in what was wrong, Nehemiah decided to get something started.

That's a marvelous thing, because sometimes, depending on how badly a person has been bruised, depending on how badly a people have been beaten and battered, sometimes it can take a whole lot of faith just to get started. Sometimes in our own individual lives, it can take all that we can muster, just to get out of bed and put on our shoes and get started over again.

Thank God for folk who have the nerves just to get something started – not always aware of how they will get there and what they will do. But knowing that — as Dr. King said — that faith is taking the first step even when we cannot see the full stairwell.

*Rev. Raphael Warnock - Senator and Pastor at Dr. King's Ebenezer Baptist Church; Sermon January 2021*

## **READING #2**

I believe that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word in reality. This is why right temporarily defeated is stronger than evil triumphant. I believe that even amid today's mortar bursts and whining bullets, there is still hope for a brighter tomorrow.

I believe that wounded justice, lying prostrate on the blood-flowing streets of our nations, can be lifted from this dust of shame to reign supreme among the children of men. I have the audacity to believe that peoples everywhere can have three meals a day for their bodies, education and culture for their minds, and dignity, equality and freedom for their spirits. I believe that what self-centered men have torn down men other-centered can build up. I still believe that one day mankind will bow before the altars of God and be crowned triumphant over war and bloodshed, and nonviolent redemptive good will proclaim the rule of the land. "And the lion and the lamb shall lie down together and every man shall sit under his own vine and fig tree and none shall be afraid."

I still believe that we shall overcome! This faith can give us courage to face the uncertainties of the future. It will give our tired feet new strength as we continue our forward stride toward the city of freedom. When our days become dreary with low-hovering clouds and our nights become darker than a thousand midnights, we will know that we are living in the creative turmoil of a genuine civilization struggling to be born.

*Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Nobel Peace Prize Acceptance Speech, Oslo, 1964*

## ***Tzedek Tzedek Tirdof: We Rise***

*Music: Sue Radner Horowitz*

*Hebrew Text: Deuteronomy 16:20*

*English Lyrics: sourced from Abraham Joshua Heschel, Lev. 19:16, Pirkei Avot 2:21, Gen. 1:27, Martin Luther King, Jr, Lev. 19:33-34*

### **Chorus:**

*Tze-dek, tze-dek, tze-dek tir-dof*

*Tze-dek, tze-dek tze-dek tirdof*

We rise for inequality, we are marching in the street.  
We rise for human dignity, we are praying with our feet.

### **Chorus**

We rise for those without a voice, we pledge to be an ally.  
We rise for those without a choice, we will not stand idly by.

### **Chorus**

We all have a part you and me, can't do it all alone, we need community.  
And no one is free until we all are free. We are created *b'-tze-lem E-lo-him*.

We rise to meet the stranger, we make a freedom call.  
We rise together, justice, justice for us all.

### **Chorus**

### **READING #3**

In every movement toward freedom some of the oppressed prefer to remain oppressed. Almost twenty-eight hundred years ago Moses set out to lead the children of Israel from the slavery of Egypt to the freedom of the Promised Land. He soon discovered that slaves do not always welcome their deliverers. They became accustomed to being slaves. They would rather bear those ills they have than to flee to others that they know not of.

[But] I refuse to accept despair as the final response to the ambiguities of history. I refuse to accept the idea that the “isness” of man’s present nature makes him morally incapable of reaching up for the eternal “oughtness” that forever confronts him. I refuse to accept the idea that man is mere flotsam and jetsam in the river of life, unable to influence the unfolding events which surround him. I refuse to accept the view that mankind is so tragically bound to the starless midnight of racism and war that the bright daybreak of peace and brotherhood can never become a reality.

*Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Stride Toward Freedom, 1958; Nobel Peace Prize Acceptance Speech, Oslo, 1964*

## ***Mi Chamocha (from The Shira)/We Shall Overcome***

*arr. Erik Contzius*

*Text: Dr. Martin Luther King & Jewish liturgy, Music: based on We Shall Overcome & The Shira*

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When Your children witnessed Your power, they extolled You and gave You thanks. And yet, we Your children, still need to experience Your redemptive power in the world, and we need faith. In the words of Dr. King,

“With this faith, we will be able to hew out of the mountains of despair a stone of hope. With this faith, we will be able to transform the jangling discords of our nation into a beautiful symphony of [unity]....With this faith, we will be able to work together, to pray together, to struggle together, to go to jail together, to stand up for freedom together, knowing that [all] will be free one day.”

מִי כַמּוֹכָה בְּאֵלִים יְיָ, מִי כַמּוֹכָה נֶאֱדָר בְּקֹדֶשׁ  
נֹרָא תְהִילָת, עֲשֵׂה פְלֵא  
מְלֻכוֹתֶיךָ רָאוּ בְּנֵיךָ, בּוֹקֵעַ יָם לְפָנֵי מֹשֶׁה וּמִרְיָם  
זֶה אֱלֹהֵי עַנּוּ וְאָמְרוּ  
יְיָ יְמִלֹךְ לְעוֹלָם וָעֶד  
בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ, גֹאֵל יִשְׂרָאֵל

*Mi chamocha ba-eilim Adonai, mi kamocha ne-edar bakodesh,*

*Nora t'hilot o-she fe-leh.*

*Mal'chu-te-cha ra-u va-necha, bo-kei'a yam lifnei Moshe u'Miryam,*

*Zeh Eili anu v'amru:*

*Adonai yimloch l'olam va-ed*

*Baruch Atah Adonai, Ga-al Yisrael.*

“And when this happens, when we allow freedom to ring, when we let it ring from every village and hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up that day when all of God’s children, black and white, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants, Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing in the worlds of the old Negro spiritual, ‘Free at last! Free at last! Thank God, Almighty, we are free at last!’”

Praised are You, O God, the Redeemer of all of us.

## **READING #4**

Our God, God of the spirits of all flesh, we invoke Thy blessing upon this assembly gathered here to demonstrate for freedom, bread, and the dignity of men.

Thou hast endowed all men equally with the right to life, to liberty, and to the pursuit of happiness. Enable us, to sensitize all Americans — and especially those in positions of power and authority— to this concept of equality.

May we understand that when we deprive our fellow man of bread and dignity, we negate the *tselem Elohim*, the image of God in man, and delay the fulfillment of Thy kingdom.

Enable us to understand that our society, the American people, is of one piece — that when any part of this society suffers, we all suffer.

May we understand that he who discriminates is as morally hurt as the one discriminated against is physically hurt; that he who is prejudiced may injure the object of his prejudice, but he also degrades the society of which he is a part.

Above all, we pray we become cognizant in ever-increasing measure that our religious ideals must be fulfilled in actual living experience; our traditions must be given flesh in the form of social justice, now.

Freedom, pride, and dignity must not be empty words, nor even sincere ideals projected into some messianic future, but actualities expressed in our society in concrete and tangible form, now.

May we never forfeit our liberties, nor condone cowardice, prejudice, and self-indulgence. May we ever expand the area of human freedom in our midst and thus serve Thee and Thy law of love and justice.

May we demonstrate our gratitude for the blessed privilege of living under the Stars and Stripes by giving “to bigotry no sanction, to persecution no assistance.”

Banish hatred, pride, and arrogance from our midst and inspire us to do justice, to love mercy, and walk humbly with Thee.

*Prayer at the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, by Rabbi Uri Miller; August 28, 1963*

## **If Not Now**

*Music & Lyrics: Carrie Newcomer © BMG Rights Management US, LLC*

### **Chorus:**

If not now, tell me when  
If not now, tell me when.  
We may never see this moment  
Or place in time again  
If not now, if not now, tell me when.

I see sorrow and trouble in this land  
I see sorrow and trouble in this land  
Although there will be struggle we'll make the change we can.  
If not now, if not now, tell me when.

### **Chorus**

I may never see the promised land.  
I may never see the promised land.  
And yet we'll take the journey  
And we'll walk it hand in hand  
If not now, tell me when.

### **Chorus**

So we'll work it 'til it's done  
Every daughter every son,  
Every soul that ever longed for something better,  
Something brighter.

It will take a change of heart for this to mend.  
It will take a change of heart for this to mend.  
But miracles do happen every shining now and then  
If not now, tell me when?

### **Chorus**

And miracles do happen every shining now and then.  
If not now tell me when (x3)

## **Draw The Circle**

*Words: Gordon Light*

*Music: Mark A. Miller*

Draw the circle, draw the circle wide. (2x)  
No one stands alone, we'll stand side by side.  
Draw the circle, draw the circle wide.

Draw the circle wide, draw it wider still.  
Let this be our song: no one stands alone.  
Standing side by side,  
Draw the circle, draw the circle wide.

In your sadness and in your grief,  
From all the pain, it seems there's no relief.  
We will hold you until the storms subside,  
Draw the circle, draw the circle wide.

## **Heal Us Now**

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*Hebrew Text: based on Liturgy, Numbers 12:13, Psalms 28:9, 118:25 & :145:18*

*R'faeinu Adonai v'nei-ra-feh, hoshi-einu v'nivashe-ah.  
El karov, l'chol korav, ach karov, li-reav, yishoh.*

We pray for healing of the body. We pray for healing of the soul. For strength of flesh and mind and spirit. We pray to once again be whole.

*El na r'fa-na; Oh, please heal us now. R'fuat hanefesh, u'r'fuat ha-guf,  
r'fua sh'leimah. Heal us now.*

*Hoshi-a et amecha u-vareich et nachala-techa u'r-eim v'na-s'eim ad ha-olam.  
Mi shebeirach Avoteinu, mi shebeirach Emoteinu, ana Adonai hoshiah na.*

We pray for healing of all people. We pray for healing of the land, and peace for every race and nation - every child, every woman, every man.

Heal us Adonai, and we shall be healed. Save us and we shall be saved. God is close to all who call out to God. Surely, help is near to all who call out to God.

Oh God, please heal us now; healing of the soul and healing of the body, a complete healing. Help Your people bless Your heritage, care for them and exalt them forever. You, who blessed our ancestors, O please, help us.

## **We Shall Overcome/Gesher Tsar M'od**

*We shall Overcome - words: C. Albert Finley, music: based on 1794 hymn, "O Sanctissima"*  
*Gesher Tsar M'od – words: R.Nachman of Bratzlav, music: Baruch Chait*

We shall overcome, we shall overcome,  
We shall overcome someday;  
Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe,  
We shall overcome someday.  
We'll walk hand in hand, we'll walk hand in hand,  
We'll walk hand in hand someday;  
Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe,  
We'll walk hand in hand someday.

*Kol haOlam kulo, gesher tsar m'od*  
*V'ha i-kar lo l'fa-cheid klal!*

We are not afraid, we are not afraid,  
We are not afraid today;  
Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe,  
We are not afraid today.  
*V'ha i-kar lo l'fa-cheid klal!*

We shall live in peace, we shall live in peace.  
We shall live in peace someday  
Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe,  
We shall live in peace someday,  
*Kol haOlam kulo, gesher tsar m'od*