

Human Rights Day December 10

The year 2023 is the 75th Anniversary of the Declaration of Human Rights Day. Human Rights Day was adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations in 1948. The official Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) proclaims the inalienable rights that everyone is entitled to as a human being - regardless of race, color, religion, sex, language, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status. This document has been rendered into more than 500 languages and is the most translated document in the world. (<https://www.un.org/en/observances/human-rights-day>)

Since the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, human rights have become more recognized and with more guarantees around the world. The document has served as the foundation for an expanding system of human rights protection that focuses on vulnerable populations such as persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples, and migrants.

However, in the last few years freedom and justice have been under assault. As the world faces challenges such as: pandemics, conflicts, the rise of fascism, status inequalities, morally bankrupt global financial systems, racism, and climate change, the values, and rights enshrined in the UDHR provide a way for collective action that ensures that no one is left behind.

Prayers

Most gracious Lord,

As Micah explained, what does the Lord require of us but to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly, fill us with your love and the desire to ensure justice for all our brothers and sisters.

Enlighten our leaders, that they might respect the right of all human beings to live in peace.

Open the hearts of those who hate, unlock the hand clenched in a fist, that it might embrace.

Inspire the influential, that their power might be used for the common good of all.

Guide us as individuals to work for justice and equality for every human being, an end to all division, and a human society built on love and peace.

Activities

Read the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (<https://www.un.org/en/about-us/universal-declaration-of-human-rights>)

Take a quiz about Human Rights (<https://create.kahoot.it/details/8590d801-0272-40d4-8d83-7146df85aaa3>)

Fly the Inclusive Rainbow Flag (available in garden size and standard flag size)

Learn how your congregation can become more welcoming to all people through the Reconciling In Christ ministry of the ELCA: <https://www.reconcilingworks.org>