

A Litany of Freedom

All: We, as people of faith, gay, lesbian, bi, transgendered and straight, claim the promise of the rainbow, the promise of Creation's sustaining love.

Reader 1: From the Hebrew Scriptures, we read: This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living thing.

All: We proclaim our pride. **(Lighting of the Red Candle)**

Reader 2: It is much easier for society and homophobic religion to tolerate a sad and pitiful homosexual than a proud and creative gay man or lesbian. May we march with pride and creativity in our whole lives.

All: We proclaim our bold intentions. **(Lighting of the Orange Candle)**

Reader 3: With Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., we remember that the oppressed set both the time table and the agenda for liberation. If we say now is the time, then now is the time. May wisdom sustain us.

All: We remember that we are not isolated or alone in either our oppression or our struggle. **(Lighting of the Yellow Candle)**

Reader 4: May our pride and our quest for freedom light a flame within us that is a passion for justice for all who are disregarded, overlooked, or oppressed: native peoples, African-Americans, women, the poor in the United States and throughout the world, those with disabilities, our elders. May we realize our own participation in fear and denial, in injustice and lovelessness, and do what we can each day to live in equity and love.

All: We proclaim ourselves as people of faith, living for right relation in our world. **(Lighting of the Green Candle)**

Reader 5: May we become the bread of life, the wine of forgiveness and reconciliation as we break and pour ourselves out in the struggle against oppression and hopelessness.

All: We proclaim our vision of diversity and hope and our responsibility to share this vision. **(Lighting of the Blue Candle)**

Reader 6: May we join with one another and the spirit to follow in the way of the Hebrew prophet Isaiah by bringing good news to the oppressed, binding up the broken-hearted, comforting all who mourn, offering the oil of gladness and lasting joy. **(Lighting of the Purple Candle)**