

Reflection and Prayertime: Speaking up and Speaking Out – “Good Trouble” for the Beloved Community

July 19, 2021

Today I want to both acknowledge the one year anniversary of the passing of famed Civil Rights leader John Lewis and hear his good words again in the last essay just prior to his death on July 17, 2020, and I want to recognize the observance of our Muslim staff and friends of Eid al-Adha, Arabic for the Festival of Sacrifice, that begins at sundown today and concludes July 23. Eid al-Adha honors the willingness of Ibrahim/Abraham to sacrifice his son as an act of obedience to God’s command with God providing a lamb to sacrifice instead. I’m grateful for VOA Mid-States’ partnership with the American Turkish Friendship Association which provides a donation of the meat from an animal usually each year to our Unity House family shelter.

So you may join me in listening to John Lewis’ reflection and final words here.

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=3115578335195998>

I also want to invite you to join with me and sit with another reflection from 6 years ago in 2015 when vandalism occurred here in Louisville at the Louisville Islamic Center of Compassion and the compassionate community response that ensued.

<https://www.courier-journal.com/story/opinion/2015/10/01/bonds-grow-between-turkish-group-and-voa/73162134/>

As things sort of seem to return to “normal-ish” and we settle into some previous life grooves, may we not return to the normal that was. May we be emboldened as John Lewis put it so aptly, to speak up and speak out and participate in “Good Trouble...Necessary Trouble” for the sake of the Beloved Community that Martin Luther King Jr challenged us to aspire to bring to fruition. May we, each one of us, in our personal and professional lives, commit in big and small ways to create a new normal, one that is more reflective of and congruent with the realm of God.