

NOVEMBER PRAYER CYCLE

The International Decade for People of African Descent: A 2020 Prayer Cycle

Resistance and Resilience for People of African Descent

Resistance and resilience are important aspects of the agency of people of African descent. Actions of resistance and strategies to nurture resilience can influence an individual's life, the experience of the community, and wider relationships for the greater good. Even in the face of grave injustice and dehumanizing conditions of enslavement, racism, and poverty there is the possibility of change. People of African descent have in the past, and currently, continue to protest injustice, overcome setbacks, and have the courage to hope and work for a better future

During this month, we name groups and individuals of African descent and the traditions of resistance and resilience that they pass on. We pray for the following groups and peoples:

1-Nov	All Saints Day	Recall the saints and ancestors, and pray for them. They were not perfect, yet they sought to cultivate their innate capacities and offer their best service to others. Let us honour them, avoid their mistakes, and imitate their virtues.
2-Nov		Many African countries have shown resilience in the face of the coronavirus pandemic. Strategies used include screening, testing, using community workers to reach households, and sharing resources across the continent. Let us pray that we can learn from them.
3-Nov		Music and dance for resilience in the drumbeats and body movements of the continent—retained and revisited in African-American and African-Caribbean religious rituals. Let us offer prayers of thanksgiving!
4-Nov		Young Africans on the continent and in the diaspora making a difference, organizing protests, and demanding justice, sometimes in the face of police brutality.
5-Nov	Guy Fawkes Day (UK)	Who decides whether a protestor is a villain or a hero? Continuing to fight for what is right even after making mistakes, and praying for justice to prevail.
6-Nov	World Day to Protect the Environment in War (UN)	African-born leadership in promoting climate justice, such as Vanessa Nakate, a Ugandan youth climate justice activist.

7-Nov		Black soldiers from the British Empire who fought in World War II encountered racism among the Allies while fighting with White troops against Nazism. We will remember them, and pray for them and for peace.
8-Nov	Remembrance Sunday (UK) International Restorative Justice Week	Advocates argue for including an anti-racist lens to restorative justice in the USA. We pray for there to be restorative justice with racial justice.
9-Nov		African and Caribbean governments who spearhead policies and programs to improve the lives of the citizens. What are some examples of good practice? We pray for learning for us all.
10-Nov	World Science Day	Remembering and praying for Black scientists and inventors. Recognizing and praying for Black teachers who nurture a love for science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) in Black students.
11-Nov	Veterans Day (USA) Remembrance Day (Canada)	Remembering Black soldiers who fought in European and American wars. The Tuskegee Airmen, the first Black aviators in the USA who fought in World War II. We pray for a desire for the day when there are no wars.
12-Nov		Susu or partner: an informal saving and credit venture of Caribbean people, especially women. A small group of friends each contribute a regular set amount to a saving pool and rotate turns to get the total sum known as the "draw." We give thanks for this cultural wisdom in saving and sharing.
13-Nov	World Kindness Day	African proverbs and traditions of kindness including offering water and serving meals to friends and strangers. We pray for continued kindness among us all.
14-Nov	World Diabetes Day	Black church and other -based groups with programs for preventing of diabetes through exercise groups, and distribution of inexpensive nutritious food and fresh vegetables to Black people in urban areas affected by poverty. We give thanks for such programs and pray for people among us who are living with diabetes and other health challenges.
15-Nov	National Addiction Awareness Week (Canada)	Groups working to end substance abuse and mental illness in African communities on the continent and the diaspora. We pray for the use of culturally appropriate strategies for prevention and treatment.

16-Nov	International Day for Tolerance (UN)	Managing conflict through speech to de-escalate tension and conflict resolution measures. We give thanks for this conflict resolution work.
17-Nov		African Americans in Flint, Michigan and other parts of the USA who protested water supply polluted by lead and other contaminants. We pray for all affected by environmental racism.
18-Nov		Spirituality used as a source of resistance and resilience by many. Critical thinking and accountability question the use of religion/spirituality in abusive ways. We pray for continued means of resistance and resilience.
19-Nov		Courage of Black persons from marginalized groups such as women, working class, and LGBTQ+ communities who offer themselves for public leadership. We give thanks for their faithful leadership.
20-Nov	Universal Children's Day (UN) Africa Industrialization Day (UN)	Innovative strategies by Black teachers to deliver education to children in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. Jamaican primary school teacher Taneka McKoy-Phipps' Community Blackboard strategy was highlighted by UNICEF. We give thanks for their innovation and pray for their continued strength.
21-Nov	World Television Day (UN)	Research that documents negative stereotypes of Africans in global media. Journalists, actors, filmmakers, and news anchors creating more opportunities for African actors and media workers, as well as programs from African perspectives.
22-Nov		Black Community Development Workers supporting empowerment and self-advocacy of disenfranchised groups.
23-Nov		Using African traditions of proverbs and storytelling to teach wisdom and resilience to succeeding generations. Affirming traditional African knowledge systems.
24-Nov	United Nations Day (UN)	Acknowledging the work of Africans in the United Nations, such as Kofi Annan of Ghana, former Secretary General, and Angela E.V. King of Jamaica, standard-bearer for the empowerment of women.
25-Nov	International Day for the Elimination of Violence	Feminist and womanist theologians' leadership in exploring and re-interpreting instances of gender-based violence and sexual gender-based violence in the scriptures.

	Against Women (UN)	
26-Nov	Thanksgiving (USA)	Conversations in the USA about African Americans' celebrating Thanksgiving. Concern about the holiday's link with the arrival of European Settlers. Affirmation of the psycho-spiritual value of gratitude.
27-Nov	Native American Heritage Day (Parts of the USA)	Solidarity between Black and Indigenous peoples in the Americas in the struggle to combat racism.
28-Nov	Advent begins	Black anti-slavery campaigners in Britain, such as Mary Prince and Olaudah Equiano, who in the late 18th and early 19th centuries wrote accounts of their lives to expose the evils of slavery.
29-Nov	First Sunday of Advent	Black entrepreneurs on the continent and in the diaspora working to secure financial freedom and safeguard the well-being of future generations.
30-Nov	Full Moon	Traditions for observing and appreciating nature. Marking the seasons and cycles of life; and resilience in knowing and responding to the changes and opportunities of each season.