

And God created humanity in the Divine image,
in the image of God all were equally created... (Gen 1:27)

וַיְבָרֵא אֱלֹהִים אֶת־הָאָדָם בְּצִלְמוֹ
בְּצֶלֶם אֱלֹהִים בָּרָא אֹתוֹ

In God's Image *By Janel Margareta and Rabbi Brian Glusman*

God and God of our ancestors,
Let us be reminded today that
we have all been created in Your image.
May we encourage each other and build one another up –
in celebration of our own unique gifts.
May we be kind and compassionate to others
who reflect Your image and likeness in different ways.
May we learn and be inspired by these differences.
May we truly accept each other, in our communities and in our hearts.
May it be Your will and may we all do our part.

Blessed are You, Lord our God, Ruler of the Universe,
who creates all people in Your image.



In Pain we remember George Floyd



I Can't Breathe By Rabbi Lance J. Sussman

I can't breathe,
The knee of oppression
Is on my neck.

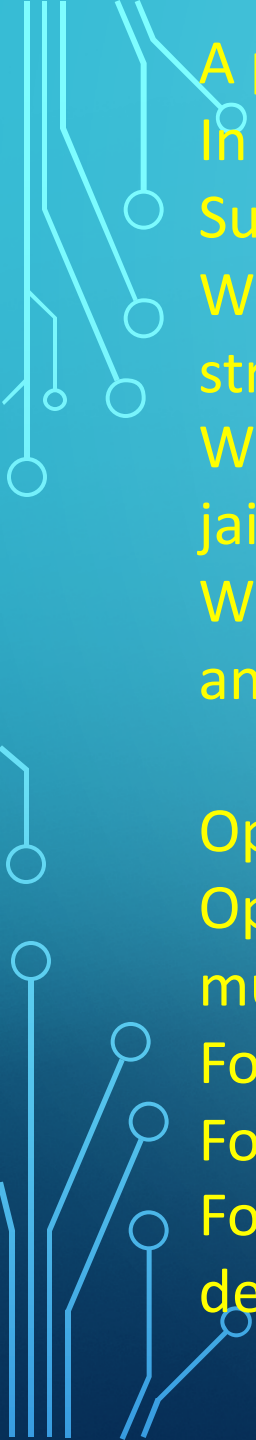
I can't breathe,
The air of my city
Is filled with tear gas.

I can't breathe,
I am filled with rage
And the smoke of burning buildings.

I can't breathe
Because the air is filled with contempt for people of
different colors.

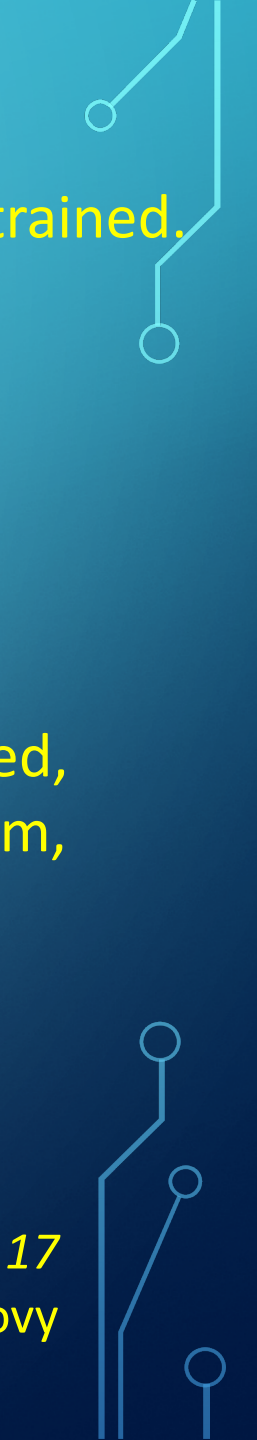
I can't breathe
Because my country is suffocating
And the air of democracy is getting thinner and thinner.

I can't breathe
Because I am grieving for America
And praying its dreams aren't dying
In the streets of our nation tonight.



A psalm of protest,
In memory of George Floyd,
Sung at the gates of justice,
When black men are
strangled in the streets,
When power is abused and
jails overflow,
When the voiceless are forgotten
and minorities misused.

Open, you gates!
Open to the cries of those
murdered, jailed or harassed
For being black,
For being a person of color,
For being homeless, indigent,
destitute or unwanted,



The detained, the hounded,
The pursued and the persecuted,
Those who are killed while being restrained.

Open, you gates!
Let righteousness flow
forth as living waters,
And truth flow forth as healing balm,

To still the hand of violence and hatred,
To cure the heart of bigotry and racism,
To herald fairness and equality,
And bring justice to this land.

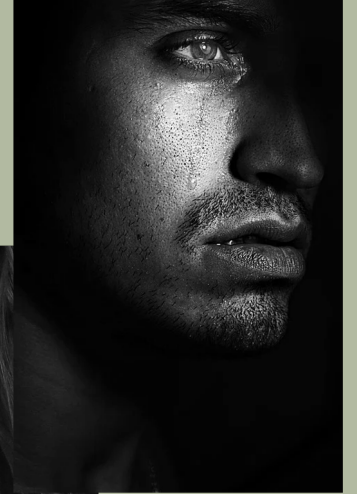
Strangled by Police: Psalm of Protest 17
By Alden Solovy

TEARS
that reflect DESPAIR



Say, do you hear
Still and small In the distance ever present
The sound of justice weeping?
For what might have been
And isn't
For all that was
And wasn't.
For what we might have done
And didn't.
For what we should have done
But wouldn't.
And will we turn our eyes
Away from the shame
Away from the blame
And stand with the counted?
Or just keep sleeping while
Still and small In the distance ever present
Comes the sound of justice weeping?

The Sound of Justice Weeping
by Ted Markstein





Comfort Me by Mike Hauser

God, here I am
Unfit to tie your shoes
Still on my behalf you move
When I'm not sure of what to do
You comfort me
You comfort me

Holy One, here I am
The blind one at the gate
Not able to see the way
You hold my hand and gently say
You'll comfort me

Source of all Life, here I am again
Standing at the well
My sins explain themselves
They are mine and no one else
Comfort me Comfort me

God of Living Waters, here I am
The one beside the pool
Needing healing too
Help me find healing in you
As you comfort me
Comfort me

A Prayer of Courage and Consolation

by Rabbi Karyn Kedar

Holy One of Blessing,
grant us the will to stand firm
in the face of evil and hostility,
not to be silent or afraid.
To work diligently and faithfully
to banish wickedness from the earth.

Holy One of Blessing,
grant us the courage and resolve
to speak when there is hatred,
to act when there is confusion,
to join with others in
building a world of safety,
understanding, and acceptance.

Because there is hate, dear God,
help us heal our fractured and broken world.
Because there is fear, dear God,
grant courage and faith to those in need.
Because there is pain, dear God,
bring healing to the shattered and wounded.
Because there is hope, dear God,
teach us to be a force for justice and kindness.
Because there is love, dear God,
help us to be a beacon of light and compassion.

As it is written:
Be strong and let your heart have courage.

(Joshua 1:6)

Depart from evil, do good,
seek peace and pursue it.

(Psalm 34:15)

Let us all have **COURAGE...**

Brene Brown calls us to lean into the tough conversations. "Brave leaders are never silent around hard things. Our job is to excavate the unsaid. That requires courage and vulnerability."

My humanity is bound up in yours, for we can only be human together.
(Desmond Tutu)

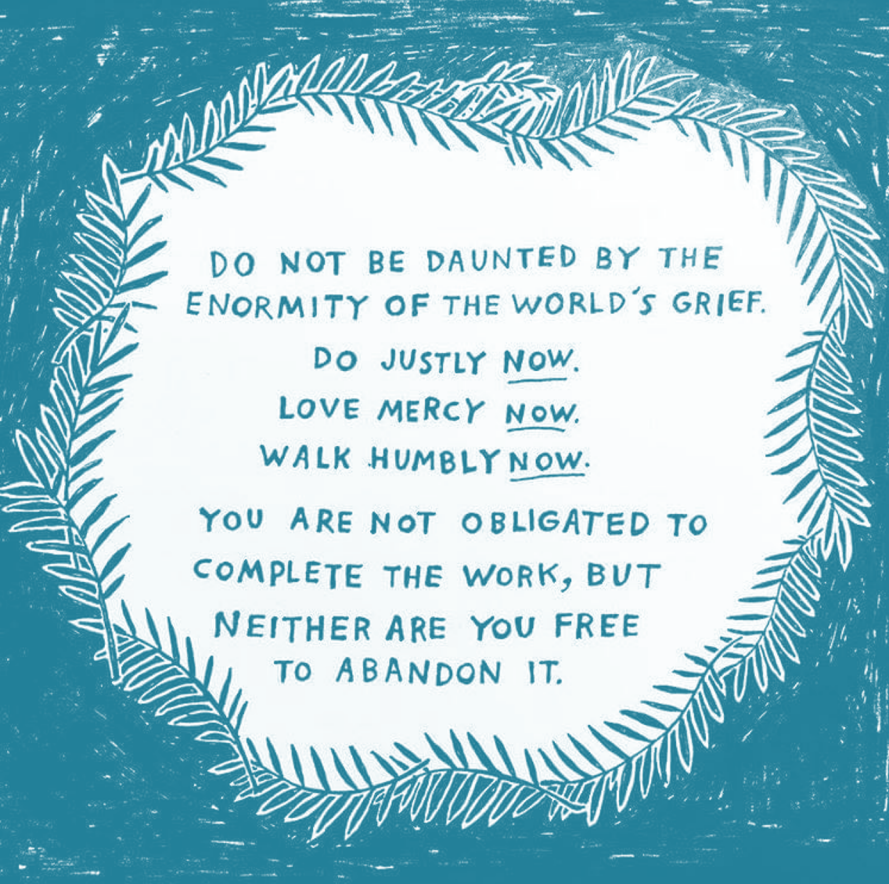
When darkness comes,
Remember you are resilient.
You will find your way
By the moonlight.
(Liz Newman)

"Speak out on behalf of the voiceless and for the rights of all who are vulnerable. Speak out in order to judge with righteousness and to defend the needy and the poor." -- Proverbs 31:8-10

For us to transform as a society, we have to allow ourselves to be transformed as individuals. and for us to be transformed...we have to allow for the incompleteness of any of our truths and a real forgiveness for the complexity of human beings.
(Angel Kyodo Williams)

"When truth is spoken and justice is done, then peace is established" (Pirke Avot 1:18). For truth to be spoken, each of us must learn to listen, opening our ears to hear one another's truth and our hearts to understand it. For justice to be done, it must exist for everyone, rich and poor alike, those of every religion, race, culture and background, those with power and those without. Only then can we find the wholeness that true peace represents.

"If you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor."
(Desmond Tutu)



We can have HOPE...

Power at its best is love implementing the demands of justice. Justice at its best is love correcting everything that stands against love.
(Martin Luther King)

There are years that ask questions and years that answer. (Zora Neale Hurston)

What if 2020 isn't cancelled?

By Leslie Dwight

What if 2020 is the year we've been waiting for?


A year so uncomfortable, so painful, so scary, so raw — that it finally forces us to grow.

A year that screams so loud, finally awakening us from our ignorant slumber.

A year we finally accept the need for change.

Declare change. Work for change. Become the change. A year we finally band together, instead of pushing each other further apart.

2020 isn't cancelled, but rather the most important year of them all.



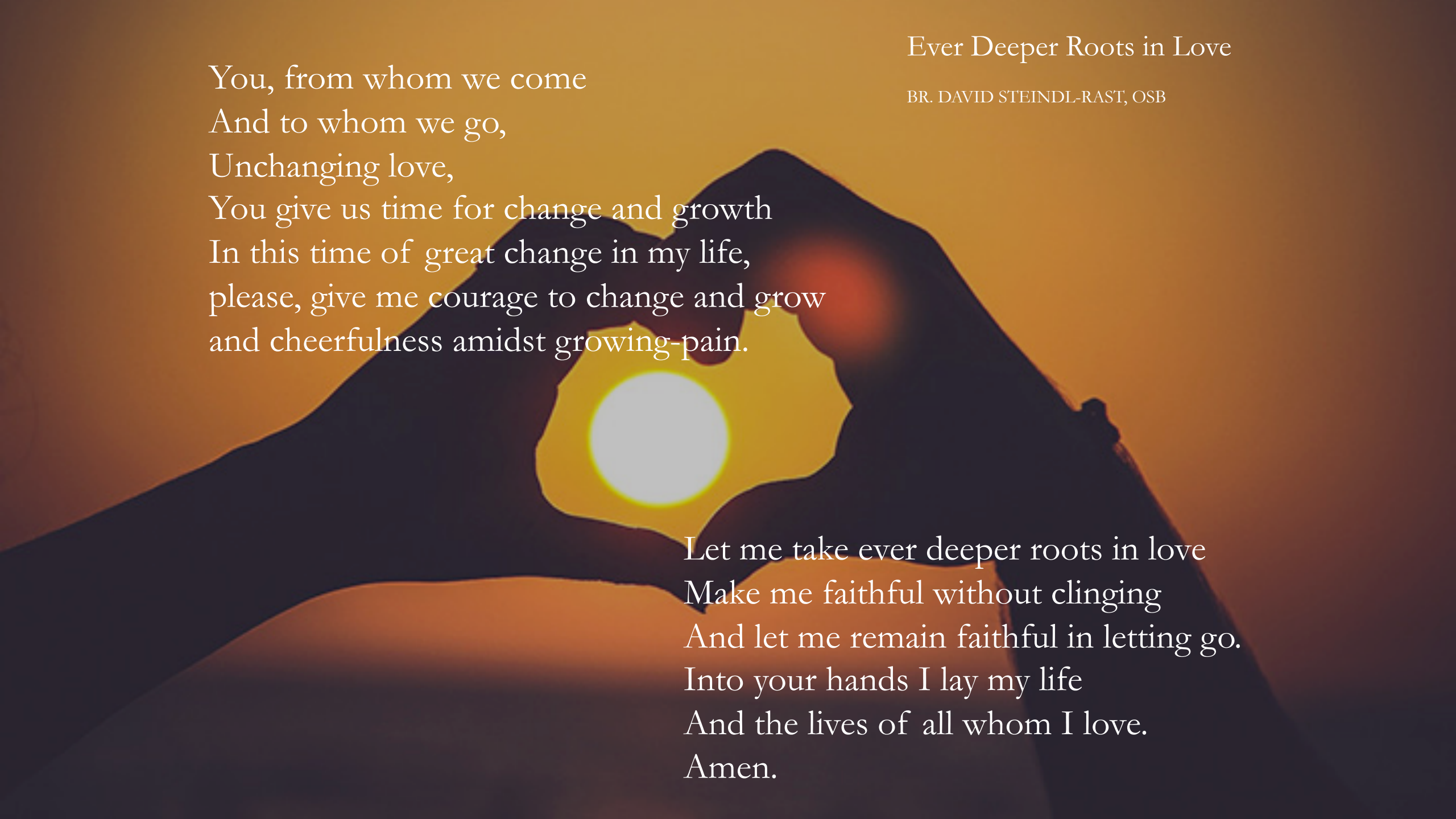
Tennessee Williams said, “The world is violent and mercurial — it will have its way with you. We are saved only by love — love for each other and the love that we pour into the art we feel compelled to share: being a parent; being a writer; being a painter; being a friend. We live in a perpetually burning building, and what we must save from it, all the time, is love.”

(Kristi Nelson)

The Peace of Wild Things by Wendell Berry

When despair for the world grows in me
and I wake in the night at the least sound
in fear of what my life and my children's lives may be,
I go and lie down where the wood drake
rests in his beauty on the water,
and the great heron feeds.

I come into the peace of wild things
who do not tax their lives with forethought
of grief. I come into the presence of still water.
And I feel above me the day-blind stars
waiting with their light. For a time
I rest in the grace of the world, and am free.

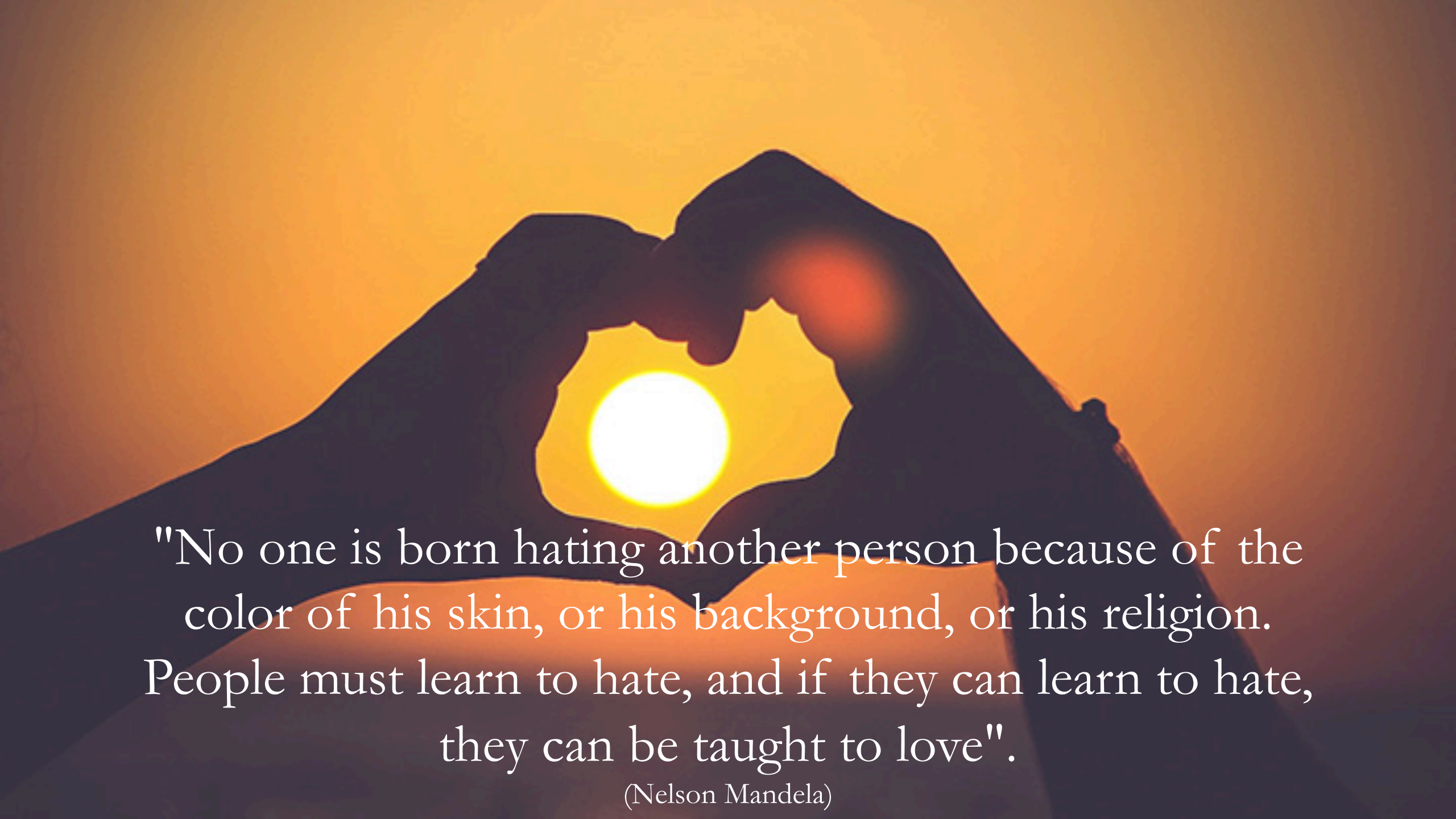


You, from whom we come
And to whom we go,
Unchanging love,
You give us time for change and growth
In this time of great change in my life,
please, give me courage to change and grow
and cheerfulness amidst growing-pain.

Ever Deeper Roots in Love

BR. DAVID STEINDL-RAST, OSB

Let me take ever deeper roots in love
Make me faithful without clinging
And let me remain faithful in letting go.
Into your hands I lay my life
And the lives of all whom I love.
Amen.



"No one is born hating another person because of the color of his skin, or his background, or his religion. People must learn to hate, and if they can learn to hate, they can be taught to love".

(Nelson Mandela)



#SayTheirNames

Atatiana Jefferson, Jonathan Ferrell, Renisha McBride,
Stephon Clark, Jordan Edwards, Alton Sterling, Aiyana
Jones, Tamir Rice, Trayvon Martin, Sean Bell, Oscar
Grant, Sandra Bland, Philando Castile, Corey Jones, John
Crawford, Terence Crutcher, Keith Scott, Clifford Glover,
Claude Reese, Randy Evans, Yvonne Smallwood, Amadou
Diallo, Walter Scott, Eric Garner, Freddie Gray, Breonna
Taylor, Sean Reed, Tony McDade

Ahmaud Arbery

George Floyd