



*Thanks to Richard Rohr, OFM, Martin Luther King, Howard Thurman and Dorothy Day, we bring you today's reflection:*

As Martin Luther King, Jr. (1929–1968) observed, one of the most segregated hours in the United States still occurs on Sunday mornings when we attend church services. [1] Yet as early as the 1940s, African-American writer and mystic Howard Thurman (1899–1981) was seeking to build a worshipping community across racial differences. In 1944, along with his white co-pastor Alfred Fisk (1905–1959), Thurman co-founded the Church for the Fellowship of All Peoples, the country's first interracial, interfaith congregation. Reverend Thurman describes how the collective experience of God became the center of the community's life, unifying people from many different backgrounds and cultural expressions.

**Fellowship Church was a unique idea, fresh, untried. There were no precedents and no traditions to aid in structuring the present or gauging the future. Yet [my wife] Sue and I knew that all our accumulated experiences of the past had given us two crucial gifts for this undertaking: a profound conviction that meaningful and creative experiences between peoples can be more compelling than all the**

**ideas, concepts, faiths, fears, ideologies, and prejudices that divide them; and absolute faith that if such experiences can be multiplied and sustained over a time interval of sufficient duration any barrier that separates one person from another can be undermined and eliminated. We were sure that the ground of such meaningful experiences could be provided by the widest possible associations around common interest and common concerns.**

**“We have all known the long loneliness and we have learned that the only solution is love and that loves come with community.” - Dorothy Day**

[1] Martin Luther King, Jr., “Communism’s Challenge to Christianity,” Sermon (August 9, 1953). See *The Papers of Martin Luther King, Jr., Vol. VI: Advocate of the Social Gospel, September 1948–March 1963* (University of California Press: 2007), 149. To read more on this topic, see Cathy Lynn Grossman, “Sunday Is Still the Most Segregated Day of the Week,” *America* (January 16, 2015), [ <https://email.cac.org/t/d-l-mhbjt-kyuhjyhr-j/> ]<https://www.americamagazine.org/content/all-things/sunday-still-most-segregated-day-week>

[2] Excerpts from Howard Thurman, *With Head and Heart: The Autobiography of Howard Thurman* (Harcourt Brace Jovanovich: 1979), 144, 145–146, 148.

[3] Richard Rohr, OFM, June 3, 2020. Richard Rohr Meditation: Devotion at the Center, [ <http://www.meditations@cac.org/> ] <http://www.meditations@cac.org/>

**We stand, united for change and love~ The Women’s Table**

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