

# We Are Not Alone—We Walk with God

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## A Litany for Black History Month

*prepared by Phyllis Walker, Brampton, Ontario*

### Words of Welcome

We are not alone because we know that we are supported always by God's steady hands.

We are not alone because we recognize that we are all children of God.

We are not alone because we know the truth that God's love surrounds and enfolds us always.

### Hymn

"His Eye Is on the Sparrow"

### Scripture Reading

Matthew 6:22–30

### Litany

**One:** God created the earth and all living things and the life-giving soil. God gave all that is needed for the seeds to grow and flourish and feed the bodies of human beings.  
The rich, fertile soil of the blackest black, deepest brown and beige, produces each season and gives to earth's inhabitants life and strength.  
To the earth people, born of the blackest black, deepest brown and beige, the Creator gave gifts of creativity and gentle spirits.  
All over the world these gentle earth people have been enslaved and terrorized, and their family lines have been destroyed because of greed.  
We remember with sorrow the enslavement of Africans in their own country under apartheid as they now struggle to rebuild their country.

**All: The human condition of greed continues, yet many are striving to build a better world.**

**One:** We stretch out our hands in friendship to all those who are sowing seeds of love instead of hate, and sharing instead of stockpiling and wasting the earth's resources.

**All: The human condition of envy continues, yet many are striving to respect each other.**

**One:** We stretch out our hands to others and honour the unique gifts that each human being brings to our world, knowing that we are all worthy of respect and praise for our talents.

**All: The human condition of hate continues, yet many are striving to show unconditional love to all.**

**One:** We stretch out our hands in friendship because the modern-day saint Nelson Mandela has shown us the way through reconciliation between groups who have wronged and have been wronged.  
The twisting of God's central message of love by the apartheid masterminds has now been unravelled and the message of unconditional love to all can lead to further peace in spite of the years of injustice and hatred.

**All: The human condition of slothfulness continues, yet many are returning to the dignity of labour.**

## **We Are Not Alone—We Walk with God**

**One:** We stretch out our hands to find the job that gives us meaning each day, whether through service to children, the sick, the afflicted, or those who are suffering both here and in the rest of the world.  
We have looked on our world, we have seen the suffering that is in so many places, the inequalities, the injustices, the hunger and poverty, and we accept our central task. We give thanks for all that we have achieved and now we reach out to create small worlds both here and abroad so that others too can live a better life. During this Black History Month, we give thanks for all the wonderful gifts that have been bestowed by the earth people and the brilliant minds that have given excellence in so many areas to our world.  
We are grateful for the gifts of music, the traffic signals, and so many gifts of excellence in the progress of the world that we have shared with our earth.  
We are indeed blessed!

**All: Thanks be to God. Amen!**