

Leader

As children of God, we remember that we are to love God with all of our heart, mind, and spirit... all that we are.

And we are to love our neighbor as ourselves.

However, we recognize that we have not always been able to love God, our neighbors or even ourselves as we ought.

And so we pray...

All

**Holy One, Maker of all creation, we thank you for your
love that never fails us.**

**When our love for you and others falls short of how you
created us to be, help us to remember who we are in you.**

Leader

In instances of our history like Marion and Selma, we recognize there have been many times when we have seen each other as less than human and lived the belief that there are those in society undeserving of certain inalienable rights. We have failed to see each other as sisters and brothers.

All

God of compassion, forgive us for those times when we don't see you in each other. Never let us forget that 'we' are loved and so are 'they.'

Fix in each of us the desire to nurture true relationships that are the foundation for your deep justice.

Leader

As we remember that historic march from fifty years ago, we recognize that many of those systemic racist institutions and thought processes still permeate our way of living, thinking and being even today.

And while it is true that many things have changed, we
confess we still have a long way to go.

Authentic relationships must be nurtured and we wonder
how long we will need to repeatedly
fight some of the same battles.

And what does the Lord require of us all?

We are required to do justice, love mercy and to walk
humbly with our God; and so we pray:

All

**Strengthen us all, O God, to always do the right thing.
Soften our hearts to confidently live your precepts of
mercy, compassion and reconciliation.**

**Order our steps to walk in unison with your steps until
our Selmas are no more and your kingdom is on earth as
it is in heaven.**

All

We are grateful for the witness of your love and grace for all people. We march into the future with hope grounded in faith in Jesus Christ and the affirmation that all your human creation is of your image.

In the name of Divine Hope who makes us one. Amen.