

Pastoral Prayer
55th Reunion Memorial Service
May 30, 2024

John Duffy

In this hallowed space five years ago, I reminded us that 52 years prior almost to the day, when we, the Harvard/Radcliffe Class of 1969, would begin our collective journey, Dr. Martin Luther King delivered his most eloquent words, “I have a dream”—the vision captured hearts not just across this nation, but in many places throughout the world; and I would dare to say to a group of students starting their junior year of high school. His message spoke to the depths of Veritas, Truth and it has continued to resonate throughout our lives, I strongly affirm. For we have been blessed with discomfort at easy answers, half-truths, and superficial relationships, so as to live deeply within our hearts. We have been angry at injustice, oppression, and the exploitation of the weak in our midst; we have worked for justice, equality, and peace. At times some of us have shed tears, for those who suffer from pain, rejection, starvation, and war? For that reason, the hands of many of the class of 1969 have been outstretched to comfort them.

We are a diverse group with varied talents, interests, passions and life journeys; underpinning all of this has been this commitment to Veritas, for Truth.

These past minutes in word, song, prayer, and reflection we have called to mind those classmates who have passed on from our midst and have given thanks for the many ways in which our lives have been blessed by their interaction with us both during our years here and afterwards. We are grateful for the multifaced ways that their gifts and talents have enriched humankind.

Once again we have gathered here in Cambridge to enhance former and create new memories. We have called to mind our classmates who are joined with us in spirit, either on this planet or from other realms of the universe. May we, the Radcliffe/Harvard Class of 1969 continue to push forward into the future with strength, courage, hope, and love. May each one of us in our own unique way continue to renew the face of the earth. Amen.