

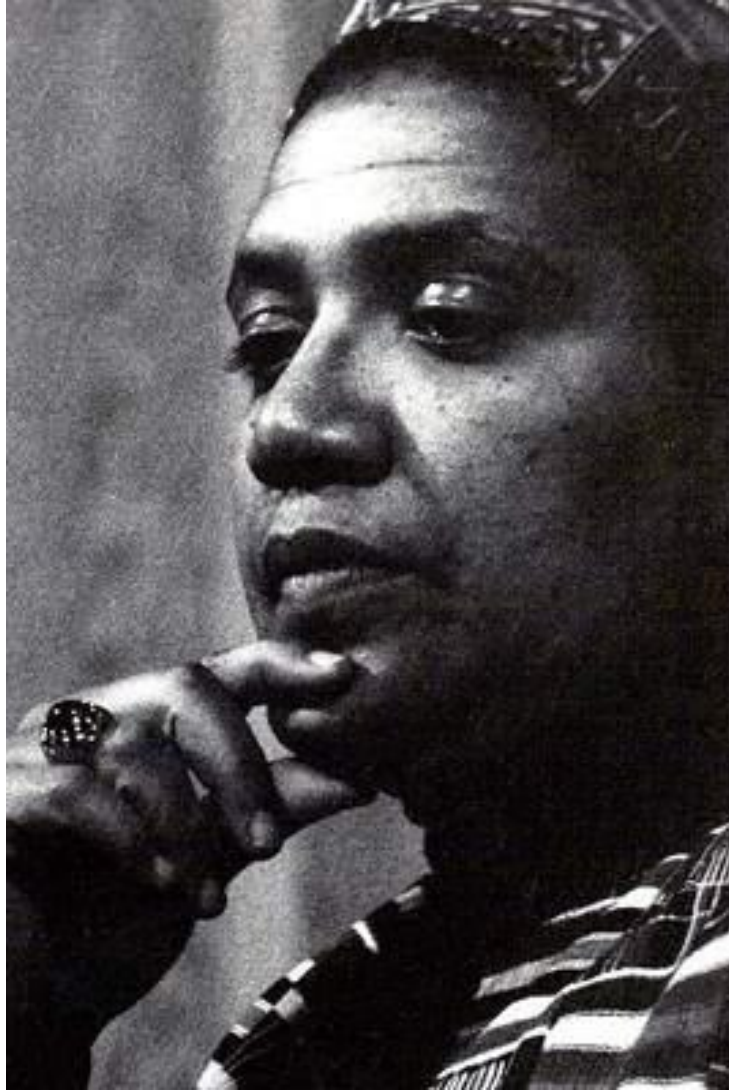
A Litany for Survival

by Audre Lorde

Audre Lorde (1934-1992), a self-described “black, lesbian, mother, warrior, poet” wrote and published poetry and essays exploring and analyzing a wide variety of topics challenging the wider world and the feminist movement to incorporate women of color and lesbians into the center of their worldview and practices. She challenged many of the limits placed on women of color and men, too. Her voice was always a clarion call for justice.

In her poem “[A Litany for Survival](#),” Lorde addresses the reality of oppressive life-denying systems, the need to look oppression squarely in the eye and push back and speak up, even when the oppressors refuse to listen and the oppressed try to survive by keeping quiet. In this way, she models moving in the dark, moving against the powers of death and claiming the truth of the lives of those who “were never meant to survive.”

[Click here to read the poem](#)



Portrait of Lorde, 1980, by K. Kendall, via [Flickr](#)

MCCDC offers daily devotionals aligned with our new worship series, **Learning to Move in the Dark**. The series is based on, and utilizes the writings of, Barbara Brown Taylor's book, "[Learning to Walk in the Dark](#)."
