

L: O caring and compassionate God, we are amazed by the splendor of your creation and sparked by the mysterious yet wonderful diversity of humanity.

P: We are inspired by your purposeful design of our lives and held accountable to the holy thread of love that weaves around us and through us, and holds us together.

L: We know, living God, that each of us has been crafted in your image and likeness, and that we live our best lives in intimate relationship with you and each other.

P: Such intimacy informs and nurtures us, and creates within us the capacity to work for the common good.

L: Yet knowing the realities of life, we confess that systemic, institutional, and cultural racism represents a clear and present danger to your love at-work in the world, the growth of the Church and the effectiveness of its witness.

P: Racism undermines the dignity and worth you assigned us from the beginning, prevents the use of the talents and gifts of all God's people, and halts movements toward wholeness, justice and peace.

L: Lord, we confess that racism and oppression are sin. Racism is not of you, God, and is not acceptable in any form: overt, subtle, visible, coded, systemic, cultural, or individual.

P: We recognize that it is wrong to grant privilege to some and deny it to others. God, forgive us for limiting the growth of the Church by shutting out those not like us. Convict us in our need to be comfortable and accommodated. God, help us walk always forward though the challenges of this journey may sometimes make us want to turn back.

ALL: Refresh us with the power of your Spirit so that we will be able to push beyond past and present fears and help us overcome the challenges with bold witness towards your call for justice and reconciliation. With your unconditional, transforming love, we can defeat racism and be the Church that you designed.

Prayer:

Faithful God, you demonstrated that your vision is one of love and wholeness. We take great comfort in knowing that the power of the Resurrection remains our source of strength and hope. Loving Creator, spark within us the determination and dedication required to align our lives with your vision and glorify you in the ministry of justice and peace. In the name of Jesus, the Redeemer, we pray. Amen.