

Prayer of the People
June 14, 2020

Lord of all, we praise you for your steadfast love and faithfulness. And it is in that grace that we gather today, that we unite our hearts across generations, across race, ability, class, gender, sexual orientation and other differences.

You are the God of Pentecost who pours out your Spirit upon all our differences - giving us each a unique language with which to praise you.

Lord, give us eyes to see what you see, hearts to love what you love, and grace to follow where you lead!

Lord, help us to give all that we know of ourselves to all that we know of you, and trust that all we don't know yet is in your hands, and will be worked out along the road with you.

Like Peter, we are evolving in your grace!

Today we lament, that in our human condition, we have used our power to discount, devalue, overlook and ignore people in our community whose skin is brown and black. We repent of the sin of racism.

We lament that we, as family members in the body of Christ, have been too ignorant, too self-centered and too afraid to raise our voice to resist and remove the racist symbols of the confederacy at the center of our city.

Today, as a predominantly white church, we acknowledge and lament our racism, manifested through years of inaction, and intentional and unintentional avoidance of contact with the lives of our black and brown sisters and brothers.

We have been willing to smile at, welcome and be nice to people of color without acknowledging the ways our housing, healthcare, banking, education, government, policing and criminal justice policies have been like a knee on the necks of our black sisters and brothers.

We lament that we too often choose to criticize and ignore those who dare to raise their voice to educate us about these injustices that are disenfranchising and killing our black brothers and sisters.

And we lament that we have been quick to justify and minimize the current culture of oppression so that we can remain comfortable - not acknowledging that our comfort creates discomfort for our black and brown brothers and sisters.

Today we confess that we will no longer be silent and uninvolved in the work of peace with justice for people of color in our city and nation.

Today we rejoice in the revelation that the death and resurrection of Jesus brings salvation for our souls **and** our bodies.

Today we rejoice in the revelation that the economy of the reign of God through Jesus Christ is one of abundance, not scarcity.

Today, we rejoice that there is plenty of room in your house O Lord and that we have no need to compete with each other, silence one another or kill one another. We make this our prayer today in the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ who taught his disciples to pray:

Our Father, who art in heaven. Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory forever. Amen.