

A Service of Prayer for Racial Reconciliation

Gathering Music

Litany (by Rev. Dr. Denise Donnell)

One: Lord, we live in a world with pointing fingers, fingers that point out our differences rather than point to our common bond in You.

Many: *Who You are, o God, let us be to all of Your children in every part of Your world.*

One: We live in a world broken by a system of oppression that uses race to divide us.

Many: *Who You are, o God, let us be to all of Your children in every part of Your world.*

One: We confess that whether intentionally or unintentionally, we have participated in the evil of racism that targets black and brown bodies.

Many: *We are heartily sorry, o God, and beg Your forgiveness.*

One: For those whose lives have been cut short because of fear, disrespect, dehumanization, repression, injustice and racism

Many: *Today we honor you and celebrate your rightful place in the Body of Christ.*

One: For those who, only in their deaths, have opened our eyes to a greater need to see beyond color and focus on the heart

Many: *Today we honor you and celebrate your rightful place in the Body of Christ.*

One: For Trayvon Martin, Rekia Boyd, Walter Scott, Eric Garner, Michael Brown, Tamir Rice, John Crawford, Timothy Russell, Malissa Williams, Jordan Davis, Renisha McBride and others murdered for reasons we don't truly understand

Many: *Today we honor you and celebrate your rightful place in the Body of Christ.*

One: For your bodies that were beaten, choked, hit by cars, mangled, tasered, and shot

Many: *Today we honor you and celebrate your rightful place in the Body of Christ.*

One: For the families of those lost, who have no legal recourse

Many: *Comfort them while they weep through the night and wait for their morning to come.*

One: Teach us how to take the next faithful step in healing each other everywhere we hurt.

Many: *Who you are, o God, let us be to all of Your children in every part of Your world.*

One: Right now, we commit ourselves to serving You more faithfully, communing with You more intimately, and loving each other more deeply.

Many: *Who You are, o God, let us be to all of Your children in every part of Your world.*

One Voice: *God of Grace, Mercy, Love and Justice, we renew our covenant to love You, alone, as the Most High God and to love each other as we love ourselves. Baptize us with Your Holy Spirit that we may have the power to live the truth of who You are, and the world will know we are Christians by our love. In all of Your names we pray, amen.*

NT: Revelation 21:1-7

Gospel: Luke 4:16-21

Prayers of the People:

Creating God,
in the beginning,
your Spirit moved through the darkness,
smoothed the waters of chaos,
and brought forth new life, born on the wind of your very breath.

Weeping God,
when sin entered your Creation,
broke your heart,
broke our relationship with you,
broke the bonds that hold humanity together,
by the thread of your love you held us close,
until that moment when your resurrection broke the power of sin and Death.

Resurrected God,
from the beginning,
you have been re-creating what we mar.
When your people were slaves in Egypt, you set them free.
When your people oppressed the vulnerable, you spoke through your prophets,
When we your people failed, you sent to us your Word and Son,
Alpha and Omega, beginning and end: Jesus Christ.
Through Christ we are made new creations,
and through Christ the world is being recreated,
until that day when heaven and earth become one.

On that day, there will be no more crying, no more tears,
no more youth dying of injustice in the streets,
no more prisons filled with children of weeping mothers,
no more fearful fathers guarding sons and daughters
against a world frightened of them,
no more fear at all, only love.

In that New Creation,
Christ has reconciled, is reconciling, and will reconcile all things,
and all people.

And so, as we labor with your Spirit toward *that* day,
we offer to you in trust this day our cries of lament for this world's brokenness,
our confessions of sin, personal and corporate,
and our prayers for a New Creation not just someday, but now,
through us and in us and in our communities.
Hear now our prayers for the church and the world:

At this time, you are invited to write down your prayers of lament, confession and hope, and to place them on the cross.

Closing Prayer and Benediction