

Lamenting Racism

The sin of racism hurts communities of colour, fractures human relationships, and denies God's good creation. Lament is a way for us to recognize the harm caused by racism.

Nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. God's grace in Christ frees us for the difficult work of recognizing and lamenting racism.

We are all part of one body in Christ, called to act with equity, fairness and justice. God's saving love creates grace filled spaces within us and within our relationships. God's saving love calls and leads us toward rooting out the racism that continues to infect the body.

Let us enter a time of lament. *(pause)*

God of the Oppressed,

Yet again you have been killed by the very people that claim to love you

Yet again your innocent blood has been poured out

How long must your body endure this suffering?

God of Justice,

Yet again we ask you, when will you make all things right? When will you hold accountable the evil doers?

We are tired of waiting! Your people are still being crushed!

Make your ears deaf to the prayers of those who would say these evil acts are justified

For you are a God who loves justice and holds accountable the evil doer.

Reconciling God,

We lament we are not your reconciled people

We lament that the love of power has found a place in your church and society.

Forgive us. Heal us. Speak your truth to us.

Amen.

By Danilo Sanchez, <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/menno-snapshots/lament-violence-of-racism/>

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Creator God, who enters the suffering of the world – who does not run away from those in pain but rushes to the site of blood and tears. Release us from those empty cravings for unity that come at no cost to the privileged. Lead us towards spaces of costly advocacy. In speaking for the racialized, let us not become enamoured by the sound of our own voices, show us when the voices of the vulnerable are being drowned out by the cacophony of the privileged. Guide us into a solidarity that demands something of us. Teach us to risk ourselves on behalf of the vulnerable, believing that when one is harmed, we all are. Secure in us the courage to resist, knowing that together we will restore what the world has tried to suffocate in us, through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord.

Amen.

Offertory Prayer

Let us pray.
Liberating God,
you break the bonds of injustice
and let the oppressed go free.
Receive these offerings in thanksgiving
for all your works of merciful power,
and shape us as people of your justice and freedom.
You we magnify and adore, through Jesus our Savior,
Amen

Eucharistic Prayer

God our Creator, in you we, with all of creation, find our source.
Yet, from the very beginning we rebutted your love in various ways.
We lorded over the weak and powerless and those that were different among us and over the created order.
But, through the ages, you reached out in love and faithfulness to us.
In Jesus Christ, your Son, we experience the embodiment of divine love, justice and grace:
 as he became one among us,
 had the boldness to cross boundaries of creed, race, and political and religious power,
 he was not cowed down by the powers that be in confronting social, racial, and misogynistic injustice,
 he socialised with and befriended the poor, outcasts and the rejected of his times,
 leading to his ultimate sacrifice of himself on the cross.

In the night he was betrayed, Jesus was celebrating the Passover with his friends. During the meal, he took bread, gave thanks to God, broke the bread and gave it to his disciples at the table with him, saying, "This is my body that has been broken for you, receive this and remember that I died for you."

After they had finished eating he distributed the wine, saying, "This wine represents the covenant of forgiveness and love God has made with you, receive this in faith and remember that I died for you."

Gracious God, as we break the bread and pour the wine, we remember the poor, the oppressed, the racialized, and the whole of creation. We remember that Christ's body was broken so that the hungry might be nourished, the oppressed set free, the racialized experience equity, and the sick experience healing, rejuvenated with the bread and wine of new hope and new life.

Empower us, O God, to be like Jesus Christ.

Gathering God, as we share the bread and wine as members of the one body of Jesus Christ; gather us as your people to share one another's burdens and pains and be that healing presence in the world, striving

for justice, peace, equity and love for all people and the created order; let us be that family of hope connected by cords that cannot be broken.

Gather us, O God, as one in Jesus Christ.

Sanctifying God, may the Holy Spirit bless this meal as we partake of it, grant us that spirit of repentance and send us out into our broken world as your presence of healing and love.

Amen

Philip Mathai