



Opening Prayer

Song: A Festive Gathering (Tony Alonso)

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God of Grace, God of Mercy,
help us to see the best within ourselves,
so that we may see the best in all persons.
Help us to see humanity beyond skin color,
beyond the shape of the nose,
beyond the texture of the hair, the size of the lips.
Give us the vision to see You in all humanity,
wonderfully created by You at your discretion.
help us to know that You thought it was good!
And we will understand it all when You see fit!

Speaker 1:

I speak of deeply personal experiences, yet I also speak for all of my sisters and brothers who suffer in every continent in every part of the world. Let us demand in one voice that TRUTH and honest accounting of history be the only way to acknowledge and move beyond the collective pain of our past.

Speaker 2:

I speak for every child whose days are filled with unspoken fear or who is tormented by ethnic violence. I speak for every person living with the constant threat of losing home, family or livelihood simply because of the color of their skin, their ethnic origin, their faith or identity. Let us demand in one voice that JUSTICE might encourage everyone to live in a manner that seeks justice for everyone for we all suffer when justice is denied to even one of us.

Speaker 3:

I speak that globalism does not become the new face of colonialism. Let us demand in one voice that PEACE among all people regardless of race, ethnic origin, faith or identity should be the paramount goal.

Speaker 4:

I speak for everyone who is forced to wear physical or psychological chains of bondage that may enslave the oppressor as well as the oppressed. Let us demand in one voice that RESPECT for diversity be enshrined in the law of every nation and promoted in the heart of every person.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 22: 34-40 and Luke 10:25-27

“ You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul and with your entire mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second is like it; you shall love your neighbor as yourself. The whole law and the prophets depend on these two great commandments.”

Moment of Silence

Together we pray for guidance to:

- * Examine our own biases and positions of privilege through self-reflection and earnestly work to resolve them.
- * Live by compassion and be consciously inclusive of all individuals.
- * Affirm the value of diversity.
- * Promote understanding, inclusion, and mutual respect, and thus build community within all races, ethnicities and cultures.
- * Transform our institutions into authentically anti-racist and anti-oppressive communities of action.
- * Advocate for justice, demand equal opportunity for all and so help create a beloved community for everyone to share.

A Prayer for Racial Healing

*Loving God,
we desire to embrace the dignity
of each human person as revealed
by the mystery of the Incarnation.
Help us to live our commitment to undo racism.
Empower us to participate in the process of
right relationships, healing and reconciliation.
Strengthen us in our resolve to eradicate racism
within ourselves, our congregations, our church
and our global community.
We offer this prayer in a spirit of trust
and hope in your providence.
Amen.*