



Lamentation , Justice, Unity
September 16 ,2020

Gracious God, we thank you for making one human family of all the peoples of the earth and for creating all the wonderful diversity of cultures.

Enrich our lives by ever-widening circles of fellowship and show us your presence in those who differ most from us.

Forgive those of us who have been silent and apathetic in the face of racial intolerance and bigotry, both overt and subtle, public and private.

And take away the arrogance and hatred which infect our hearts.



Break down the walls which separate us.

And help us to find that unity which is the fruit of righteousness and which will enable us to become your beloved community.

Empower us to speak boldly for justice and truth and help us to deal with one another without hatred or bitterness, working together with mutual forbearance and respect.

And work through our struggles and confusion to accomplish your purposes.

Amen.



Scripture

Peggy G

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Then Peter began to speak to them: “I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to God. You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all.”

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



Scripture

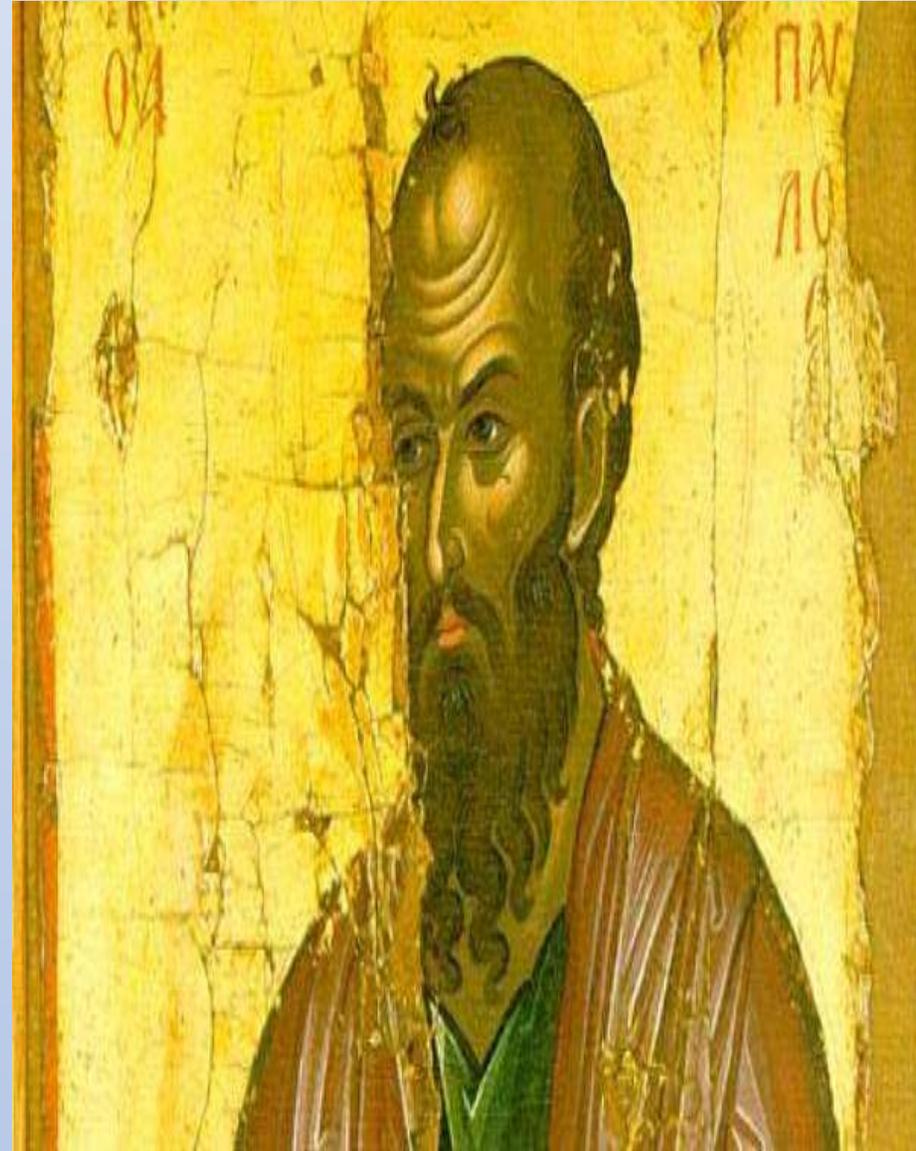
Fern B

A reading from Paul's letter to the Colossians.

Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have stripped off the old self with its practices and have clothed yourselves with the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of its creator. In that renewal there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and free; but Christ is all and in all!

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



Litany of Repentance

Dear people of God, our history is marred by oppression, by the enslavement of those who differ from us, and by the forces of racism that attack human dignity. The sin of racism is woven into our lives and our cultures, in small and great ways, in things done and things left undone.

As followers of Christ, we reject racism and the oppression of other human beings. In building Christ's beloved community, we must strive to love all people, respect all people, and work for the good of all people. We must stand alongside God's children of every race, language, and culture, and work together as agents of justice, peace, and reconciliation.

In the assurance of our forgiveness, let us kneel before God and humbly confess our sins: our participation in racism, our privilege based on racism, and our perpetuation of racism.

Silence is then kept for a time

God the Father, you freed your people from slavery in Egypt, yet the legacy of slavery deforms our lives today.

Have mercy on us.

God the Son, you prayed that all would be united in your love and service, yet the divisions among us rend your body.

Have mercy on us.

We have harmed one another and the earth through negligence, greed, and self-interest.

Have mercy on us.

We have failed to condemn discrimination that leads to unrest.

Have mercy on us.

We have decried violence, while overlooking inequity and frustration from which it rises.

Have mercy on us.

We have practiced injustice for economic gain and have oppressed others to make a false peace.

Have mercy on us.

We have sought comfort in advantage for ourselves at the cost of injustice for others.

Have mercy on us.

We have welcomed solace over conflict and ignored the cries of those harmed by our comfort.

Have mercy on us.

We have been fearful and distrustful of those who are different from us.

Have mercy on us.

We have divided ourselves from others, and refused to listen to or believe their experience.

Have mercy on us.

We have been indifferent to the pain and suffering of our sisters and brothers.

Have mercy on us.

We have held in contempt those who need our help, and not loved them with our whole hearts.

Have mercy on us.

We have been self-satisfied in our privilege, and denied our oppression of others.

Have mercy on us.

We have preferred order over justice, and isolation over the struggle for peace.

Have mercy on us

We have quietly held good intentions, and kept silent the message of reconciliation.
Have mercy on us.

We have failed to act with courage for the sake of love.
Have mercy on us.

Lord have mercy.
Christ have mercy.
Lord have mercy.

May Almighty God have mercy on us, grant us courage and conviction, and strengthen us to love others who are unlike us. May God, the Holy and Undivided Trinity, make us compassionate in our actions and courageous in our works, that we may see Christ's Beloved Community in our own day.

Amen.

Prayers of the People

Greg F

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

God of love, we pray for your church: for Michael, our Presiding Bishop; for Mariann and Chilton, our bishops; for Maria our priest; for Steve our Deacon and for all lay and ordained ministers; and for all who seek you in the community of the faithful. Equip us with compassion and love, to carry out your work of reconciliation in the world.

Add your prayers, silently or aloud

God of love,

Hear our prayers for the church.



God of freedom, we pray for our nation, and all the nations of the world: For peace and unity across barriers of language, color, and creed; for elected and appointed leaders, that they would serve the common good. Inspire all people with courage to speak out against hatred, to actively resist evil. Unite the human family in bonds of love.

Add your prayers, silently or aloud

God of freedom,

Hear our prayers for the world.



God of justice, we pray for the earth, your creation entrusted to our care: For the animals and birds, the mountains and oceans, and all parts of your creation that have no voice of their own. Stir up in us a thirst for justice that protects the earth and all its resources, that we may leave to our children's children the legacy of beauty and abundance that you have given us.

Add your prayers, silently or aloud

God of justice,

Hear our prayers for the earth.



God of peace, we pray for this community: For our local leaders; for our schools and markets; for our neighborhoods and workplaces. Kindle in every heart a desire for equality, respect, and opportunity for all. Give us courage to strive for justice and peace among all people, beginning here at home.

Add your prayers, silently or aloud

God of peace,

Hear our prayers for this community.



God of mercy, we pray for all in any kind of need or trouble: For those whose lives are closely linked with ours, and those connected to us as part of the human family. For refugees and prisoners; for the sick and suffering, the lonely and despairing; for those facing violence; for all held down by prejudice or injustice. Awaken in us compassion and humility of spirit, as we seek and serve Christ in all persons.

Add your prayers, silently or aloud

God of mercy,

Hear our prayers for all who are in need.



God of grace, we pray for those who have died:
For the faithful in every generation who have
worked for justice; for prophets who called us to
racial reconciliation; for martyrs who died
because of hatred; and for all the communion of
saints. Make us faithful to your call to proclaim
your Good News, by word and example, and
bring us at last into the glorious company of the
saints in light.

Add your prayers, silently or aloud

God of grace,

Hear our prayers for those who have died.



Sewell

O God, you made us in your own image and redeemed us through Jesus your Son: Look with compassion on the whole human family; take away the arrogance and hatred which infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; unite us in bonds of love; and work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish your purposes on earth; that, in your good time, all nations and races may serve you in harmony around your heavenly throne; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.



The Collects

Tom G

“Creator of all people, in our amazing diversity of size, shape, color, and giftedness: guide us, by your grace, to recognize the beauty and fitness of all whom you have made in your own image. Give us gifts of humility and generosity of spirit to recognize in all people, the face of our Savior, Jesus, and to practice his commandment to “love one another,” toward the end of bringing harmony and peace among persons of all colors, origins, and abilities, for the sake of your Kingdom.”

Amen.



The Collects (Cont.)

Paula T

“O bountiful and merciful God: you have blessed your people with great prophets and leaders to advance the cause of equality under law in this nation and in the world. By their teaching and preaching; by their action and example; by their marching, demonstrating, and sitting in; by their organizing, praying and singing, they have made themselves and the dream of non-discrimination impossible for opponents to ignore and possible for those marginalized to dream. Give us such leaders always, Lord. Let the cry for justice always be heard in our land until, by your gracious will, your children live together in freedom, justice, and equality.

Amen.



The Lord's Prayer

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us.

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.

And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.



Janet S

My dear Father in Heaven, today our world feels more divided than ever. Please guide us as we strive to find our way to reconciliation. Jesus was able to reach across ethnic boundaries - Romans, Jews, Samaritans - to bring people together. He gave them a chance to see the truth. God, help us to break down those same barriers in our community today. Enable us to dismantle the racial systems we have in place, so that our community can come together and heal. Help us learn from and honor each other.

Amen.

Christ has no body now on earth but yours, no hands but yours, no feet but yours. Yours are the eyes through which Christ's compassion is to look out to the world. Yours are the feet with which Christ is to go about doing good. Yours are the hands with which Christ is to bless all people now.

Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine.

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.