

Remembering Injustice, Working For Justice
WORSHIP RESOURCES

CALLS TO WORSHIP

Call to Worship (based on Psalm 116)

One: I love you LORD,

Many: *For you have heard me and my voice and my plea.*

One: For the bounty with which you have blessed me, what shall I give to you?

Many: *I will remember my salvation always.*

One: Your concern shows when even one of your people dies.

Many: *For your loving kindness, I will keep my promise when your people gather in worship.*

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Call to Worship

Leader: God's voice is more powerful than roaring waters!

People: *Hear our prayers for justice, O Lord.*

Leader: Empower us to live as we have been created: equal in your family.

People: *For truly we are people who are either your children or we are nobody's children.*

Leader: Give us the courage to see you in all people, in each person.

People: *Give us the will to banish racism from our lives, our communities, our world. So that your justice will be an ever-flowing stream.*

Leader: Come, let us worship the Lord!

CONFESSION OF SIN AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Eternal God, we confess this day our failure to live together as your children, we've failed as sisters and brothers to love each other as you have loved us. We confess giving into the temptation--while living on the edges of privilege or despair--to not give thought of those who live on the other side of the divisions among us. We confess to condemning, despising, and mistrusting those whom we do not know, and, yes, even many known to us. We confess that we divide your children into the categories of "us" and "them." Forgive us our sin, for we know that you desire wholeness in your family as do we desire wholeness in our earthly families. Forgive our pride in earthly identities of place, and family, and possession, and position. For we know that you are able and willing to forgive us and to lead us to wholeness as the Human Race. We ask for forgiveness and healing in the name of your Son the Lord Jesus Christ. (*Silence*)

Assurance of Pardon

Minister: God loves us and gives us the chance to begin again.

People: Thanks be to God.

PASTORAL PRAYERS

Gracious, kind and merciful God,

We pause to give you honor and thanks. We pray for strength and guidance in times like these. You are the God of grace and justice. Therefore, we call upon you for justice that rolls down like water and righteousness like a mighty stream. We pray for world peace that surpasses all understanding.

O merciful God help us to remember the Emanuel Nine that were slain by the senseless act of hatred and bigotry. God, we thank you for the courage, love, and forgiveness shown by their relatives in the midst of their pain. Let these memories spur us to continue to seek healing, love and justice for all.

Help us to stand firm against all forms of injustice in our homes, our neighborhoods, our churches, our cities, our nation, and our world. Give Godly wisdom to our local, national and international leaders as they seek to lead and govern others. Teach us all to love our neighbors as we love ourselves. By this, others shall know that we are your disciples. We pray and ask all these things in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen

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Loving Father, Creator, Sustainer, Maker of all Humankind,

It is with humility and gratitude that we thank you for life and light. We thank you that we live in a democratic society and can participate in the process of change and leadership.

Forgive us for our lack of shown appreciation for human diversity and for attitudes and behaviors that devalue, degrade and dehumanize people unlike ourselves.

Help us to be responsible stewards of our environment and loving towards people of all kinds. Help us in our mission towards liberation, justice and equality for all. Help us in our mission towards developing systems that will benefit all children and adults in the areas of education, health care, civil rights and immigration. Help us to build trust and unity between communities, law enforcement officials and help us in our plight to reduce violence that breeds dissension pain and sorrow.

Lord, turn our hearts toward you so that you can heal us from the evils of racial injustice, spiritual poverty, prejudice and greed.

Work through us Lord to achieve your will, we pray. Amen

PETITIONS/BIDDING PRAYERS

Presiding Minister: In remembering the injustices of the past, we are mindful of our need for a savior. Because God has called us to share in Christ's mission of reconciliation, we ask God's help as we seek to build a more just society.

(A reader proclaims each petition with response by the assembly)

1. For the Church of Jesus Christ: where faith is corrupted, may it be purified; where people go astray, may they be redirected; where there is failure to proclaim the Gospel, may there be reform; where witness for what is right is needed, may strength be given; and where there is division, may there be reconciliation let us pray to the Lord. **ALL: Lord, Hear our prayer!**
2. For the people of the earth, for strength and courage to work for justice in our neighborhoods, to create peace within our families, to comfort the sick and the dying, and to share what we have with those who are in need. For the transformation of every human heart let us pray to the Lord. **ALL: Lord, Hear our prayer!**
3. For people of all faith traditions, that in the face of challenge, the message of harmony and compassion may be proclaimed courageously and effectively let us pray to the Lord. **ALL: Lord, Hear our prayer!**
4. For the grace to face the ongoing legacy of racism in our state; for a spirit of dialogue and a willingness to take concrete steps to ensure the full flourishing of all who make South Carolina their home let us pray to the Lord. **ALL: Lord, Hear our prayer!**
5. For a spirit of esteem and respect for the ethnic and religious diversity of our state; that we will be enriched by the gifts of all communities of ethnicity and faith, especially our Native American communities, immigrants, and people of color let us pray to the Lord. **All: Lord, Hear our prayer!**
6. For refugees, immigrants, and all who are displaced from their homes and homelands: for a spirit of welcome and generosity for the members of God's family who leave their homes to escape oppression, poverty, persecution, violence, and war, and for respect for all those who seek livelihoods and homes in new lands let us pray to the Lord. **All: Lord, Hear our prayer!**
7. For the repose of the souls of Tywanza Sanders, Sharonda Coleman-Singleton, Senator Clementa Pinckney, Cynthia Hurd, Myra Thompson, Rev. Depayne Middleton-Doctor, Susie Jackson, Ethel Lance, and Rev. Daniel Simmons Sr.; that their families,

friends, colleagues and fellow congregants will find comfort and peace, and that the people of South Carolina will grow in commitment to racial justice and healing . . . let us pray to the Lord. **ALL: Lord, Hear our prayer!**

8. For those who are imprisoned by fear of those who are different or are caught up in racial prejudices, for perpetrators of violence of any kind, that compassion will replace hardness of heart and sincere repentance will change their lives . . . let us pray to the Lord. **All: Lord, Hear our prayer!**

9. For those who exercise power as agents for public safety, leaders of government, and makers of laws, that they will exercise their power wisely and humbly with a deep concern for the good of all . . . Let us pray to the Lord. **All: Lord, Hear our prayer!**

Presiding Minister: Gathering these prayers and those prayers that are unspoken but lie within our hearts, let us join together in praying the prayer that Jesus has given us: **(All) Our Father, who art...**

BENEDICTION: "The World Peace Prayer"

Leader: Lead us, O God:

**All: Lead us from death to life,
from falsehood to truth.
Lead us from despair to hope,
from fear to trust;
lead us from hate to love, from war to peace.
Let peace fill our hearts, our world, our universe. Amen.**

This prayer is found in A New Zealand Prayer Book/He Karakia Mihinare o Aotearoa (p.164)

May be sung, The New Century Hymnal, number 581.

<http://liturgy.co.nz/reflections/world-peace-prayer>