

Pastoral Prayer

June 7, 2020

God who is mindful of us, God who care for us, hear our prayers.

We confess the reality of racism. We confess that as a nation, we have perpetuated unjust structures. We have passed on prejudices from one generation to the next. We have accepted and supported an order in which some struggle for the basic and others obtain success without effort, and we have ignored how close the relationship between that unfair situation is with the color of people's skin.

Hear our prayers.

Awaken our minds and hearts and spirits, O God, to recognize and understand the reality in which we live. May we perceive how the obstacles we must overcome are different from those others face. May we find a way to move those obstacles aside so all may strive unencumbered. May we celebrate in the successes of our neighbors.

May we see all our neighbors as our neighbors.

In this time of upheaval, we pray that more of the structures of injustice may be overturned. We pray that more obstacles may be torn down. We pray that your wisdom might be ours, that your mindfulness might be ours, that your care might be ours.

We do not delude ourselves to believe that we will finally make it right, O God, for our grasp of your wisdom is fleeting, our comprehension of your mind is brief, our embrace of your compassion fades away. But let us take these steps, these necessary steps of righteousness, and know that there will be more steps to take even when our comprehension clouds. Be with us then, O God, to revive us again.

We pray for our own needs of body, mind, and spirit. We pray for the grieving of our nation, stunned by 108,000 deaths from COVID-19. We pray for the suffering of the world, lacking shelter, short of food, seeking hope.

Be mindful of your people, O God. Care for them, we pray, in Jesus' name.

Amen.