



PRAYER SERVICE WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3RD, 7PM

Join us on our [Facebook Page](#) at 7:00pm for a Live Video. If you do not have Facebook, you can use this guide to pray with us on your own wherever you are and a recording of the service will be shared later.

• INTRO

After weeks and months of being immersed in the chaos and disruption of the Coronavirus, our nation now finds itself reeling in the awareness of another virus, far older and more pervasive: the disease of racism and hatred, and all its accompanying injustices and hurts. This is a time full of so many emotions, so much confusion, and so much pain. Perhaps some of us feel afraid to say anything, in the fear that we do not know enough, or may be misunderstood. Perhaps many of us feel helpless, not knowing what we can possibly do to make a difference. But let us make no mistake, brothers and sisters: this is not a time for the Church to be silent or inactive. This is a time to listen, a time to pray. This is a time to lament, a time to confess. A time to repent. A time to seek justice, reconciliation, healing, and transformation. This is a time to seek the Kingdom of God, for all people and places, starting with our own hearts once again.

We serve a God who became human amongst a people who were an oppressed, ethnic minority, who began his public ministry by quoting the prophet Isaiah: ***“The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”*** (Luke 4:18-19) We belong to a Church which includes redeemed people from every tribe and tongue, every color and culture, where: ***“...there should be no division in the body, but...its parts should have equal concern for each other. If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.”*** (1 Cor. 12:25-26) And so, we come together tonight in prayer in order to lament the presence of evil in our society through the cunning disease of racism, to confess the ways our action or lack of action has contributed to this reality of ongoing injustice, and to seek the heart of God for justice and reconciliation. We come to receive God’s heart for all the people who are made in His image, yet have been made to feel less valued and less heard. We come to pray for all aspects of this time: for black communities, for areas affected by rioting and violence, for leadership and law enforcement, for churches. For those of us who are white Americans, who are not ethnic minorities (and at Trinity, that is most of us), we are not here to pray *for* our brothers and sisters among ethnic minorities, to cry *for* them, to pretend that we understand what it is like to live their lives—rather, we are praying *with* them, crying *with* them, standing *with* them, as the global body of Christ, to seek His Kingdom together.

- **LAMENTATION & CONFESSION**

We begin with the biblical actions of lament and confession. To lament biblically is not simply to “feel sorry for” something, but to bring our heart’s pain and our heart’s cry before God. Let’s pause in a moment of silence before God and bring the pain and confusion of our hearts and our nation before God.

“How long, O Lord, will you look on? Rescue me from their ravages, my life from the lions!” (Psalm 35:17)

“Show me the way that I should go...” (Psalm 143:8)

We confess, in this moment, that in all kinds of ways, we have fallen short of the glory of God in this moment and in all the situations leading up to this moment. We confess that we need to listen better, to love better, and to rely completely on Jesus.

Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church.

We have not done your will, we have broken your law, we have rebelled against your love, we have not loved our neighbors, and we have not heard the cry of the needy.

Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Pray in silence.

- **SONG**

“Lord I Need You” Click Here - <https://youtu.be/LuvfMDhTyMA>

VERSE 1

Lord I come I confess
Bowing here I find my rest
And without You I fall apart
You're the one that guides my heart

CHORUS

Lord I need You oh I need You
Ev'ry hour I need You
My one defense my righteousness
Oh God how I need You

VERSE 2

Where sin runs deep Your grace is more
Where grace is found is where You are
And where You are Lord I am free
Holiness is Christ in me
Where You are Lord I am free
Holiness is Christ in me

BRIDGE

So teach my song to rise to You
When temptation comes my way
And when I cannot stand I'll fall on You
Jesus You're my hope and stay
And when I cannot stand I'll fall on You
Jesus You're my hope and stay

• **JUSTICE & RECONCILIATION**

God's heart is for justice and reconciliation, these are realities of His Kingdom which we must seek and live into if we are to be faithful to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. As we think of all the dimensions of this moment in our nation, let us meditate on the powerful words of Scripture in Isaiah 58. Let us pray for black communities and ethnic minorities. Let us pray for areas affected by rioting and violence. Let us pray for leadership and law enforcement. Let us pray for our enemies and neighbors. Let us pray for perpetrators and victims. Let us seek the Lord Jesus Christ, our light and our salvation, our only hope.

“⁶ Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen:

***to loose the chains of injustice
and untie the cords of the yoke,
to set the oppressed free
and break every yoke?***

***⁷ Is it not to share your food with the hungry
and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter—
when you see the naked, to clothe them,
and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood?***

***⁸ Then your light will break forth like the dawn,
and your healing will quickly appear;
then your righteousness will go before you,
and the glory of the LORD will be your rear guard.***

***⁹ Then you will call, and the LORD will answer;
you will cry for help, and he will say: Here am I.***

***“If you do away with the yoke of oppression,
with the pointing finger and malicious talk,
¹⁰ and if you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry
and satisfy the needs of the oppressed,
then your light will rise in the darkness,
and your night will become like the noonday.***

***¹¹ The LORD will guide you always;
he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land
and will strengthen your frame.***

***You will be like a well-watered garden,
like a spring whose waters never fail.***

***¹² Your people will rebuild the ancient ruins
and will raise up the age-old foundations;
you will be called Repairer of Broken Walls,
Restorer of Streets with Dwellings.”* (Isaiah 58:6-12)**

As we look at the pain and chaos of this moment, let us fix our eyes on Christ. Let us sing this song of hope in the power of God's Kingdom to bring about that which we so desperately need. Let this song be a prophetic act of worship that we ourselves and the world around us may be transformed by the love and justice of God's reign.

- **SONG**

“Did you Feel the Mountains Tremble” Click Here - <https://youtu.be/etzvKpDJnNc>

VERSE 1

Did you feel the mountains tremble
Did you hear the oceans roar
When the people rose to sing of
Jesus Christ the risen One

VERSE 2

Did you feel the people tremble
Did you hear the singers roar
When the lost began to sing of
Jesus Christ the saving One

PRE-CHORUS

And we can see that God You're moving
A mighty river through the nations
And young and old will turn to Jesus
Fling wide you heavenly gates
Prepare the way of the risen Lord

CHORUS

Open up the doors and let the music
play
Let the streets resound with singing
Songs that bring Your hope
Songs that bring Your joy
Dancers who dance upon injustice

VERSE 3

Do you feel the darkness tremble
When all the saints join in one song
And all the streams flow as one river
To wash away our brokenness

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- **CLOSING PRAYER**

We close with a prayer that has been prayed by Christians of every tribe and tongue around the world from the beginning, the Lord's Prayer.

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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.