



RACIAL JUSTICE LITURGY & LITANY

The Great Thanksgiving

Invitation

One: All are invited to this table, because through God's goodness and love, every person is unique and beloved. Come in the fullness of who you are, because at this table we are all family. Welcome home!

Confession

One: We confess this truth: our racism in all its forms is opposed to Your divine law and disfigures Your image in every life it touches.

All: Please, Lord, eradicate racism from our lives.

One: The racism in our lives is a destructive scourge on our global society and it has been through out our history as a church.

All: Please, Lord, eradicate racism from our lives.

One: Through our racist practices, we have: acted destructively in our communities; we have harmed others; we have been obstructed the unity of Your people and have undermined Your work of grace throughout the world.

All: Please, Lord, eradicate racism from our lives.

One: Confront in our lives every hint of racism, and heal the damage we have done to others through our acts of racial inequity, our

exploitive colonialism and help us make restitution for all we have stolen through our privilege and our intentional and unintentional racial violence.

All: Please, Lord, eradicate racism from our lives.

One: Use our lives today to help You root out this racism from every facet of our society.

All: By the saving power of Jesus Christ, please make it so. Amen.

Assurance

One: We are all God's unique and beloved children. God knows the resolution of your heart, and will empower you with divine love to accomplish it, for in the name of Jesus Christ you are forgiven.

All: You are God's unique and beloved child. God knows the resolution of your heart and will empower you with divine love to accomplish it, for in the name of Jesus Christ you too are forgiven. We are all one in Christ Jesus. Amen.

Thanksgiving

One: God is present in our diversity.

All: God is present in our individuality.

One: Every culture, every people, every tribe is a divine gift.

All: Every word, in every dialect, in every song is a language of the Sacred Spirit.

One: Let us join together in that one spirit filled with holy gratitude,

All: It is only right to be united in thanksgiving and praise.

One: You created us all,
forming us with Your own hands.
You looked at each of us and proclaimed that we were more than just good,
we were all amazingly good before

Your eyes.

Who are we to contradict You about any of Your beloved children?

How could we dare to harm or deprive any of Your beloved children?

Yet, we have disappointed You by our neglect of our own siblings.

We are amazed that You still embrace us.

We wonder how You can still draw us near, but Your justice is restorative and Your ways bring healing.

This is why we join with all those You call beloved to worship You.

We join in their dance as they rejoice in their liberation from our oppression.

We join in their freedom songs as they find release from our chains because their oppression was our oppression and their chains were our own.

None of us are free until all of us are free, and all heaven now joins with us to sing:

All: I will sing to God
Who triumphed gloriously
'ppressor in the sea!

Yah, my strength and might
Became my deliverance
And truly my God. (Exodus 15:1-2a)

One: God does give the oppressed deliverance, and sent Jesus to show us how we can help.

At their birth Jesus was visited by citizen and foreigners,
by the extremely poor and the very wealthy,
by outcasts from society and those with celebrity.

All were welcomed with grace.

When Jesus chose those to come and follow,
Jesus chose those from labor and from management,
from people of peace and those of violence,
from people of all genders,
turning none away, yet changing all who met them.

We remember how Jesus took up the towel
and basin
and washed the feet of everyone who
joined them to
celebrate the Passover.
Jesus washed every disciples feet,
the twelve, and their families, their wives and
children.
We too are invited to be inclusive of all in
our care.
We remember that the bread Jesus took
in his hands had been set aside as a
memorial of their deliverance from the house
of bondage,
and that there were still others who were in
bondage praying for deliverance.
With prayers of thanksgiving to You, Jesus
took this bread and broke it,
sharing it with everyone, saying: "Take eat,
this is my body, broken and given for you."
We too are invited to be inclusive of all in
our care.

We remember that the wine Jesus poured
had been set aside
as a memorial to the suffering of those
trapped by our sins and the hardness of
our hearts.
With prayers of thanksgiving to You, Jesus
took the cup and shared it with everyone,
saying: "Drink with me, all of you, for this is
the cup filled with my blood,
which I pour out freely as a praise offering
celebrating God's eternal covenant of grace,
forgiving your sins and those of all the world."
We too are invited to be inclusive of all in
our care.

We want to be inclusive of all.
We want to be anti-racist
and bring Christ's healing to the world,
following the path of Christ that we
boldly proclaim to all the world:

All: Christ died for everybody,
Christ lives for the whole world,
Christ will come again for us all.

One: Open door none can shut,
Open heart nothing can close,
receive these gifts of bread and wine,
allow them to be for us the body and blood
of Christ accessible to all.

Open door, none can shut,
Open heart nothing can close,
receive all the privileges that are ours
allow them to become for the world a sign of
Your grace,
Your church, the body and bride of Christ,
accessible to all.

Open door that none can shut,
Open heart that nothing can close,
racism must be eradicated.
Deepen our commitment as individuals and
as a church
to work to eliminate racism in all its forms,
to live in ways that brings an end to racial
inequality,
to dismantle the structures of colonialism,
to end white privilege and all vestiges of
white supremacy.

All: Jesus, break open our hearts and allow our
tears to flow for everyone we have harmed.
Holy Spirit, renew our minds that we may
understand our sin and change our ways.
Creator God, create us anew, that we might
become perfected in Your love, that You
may receive all the glory, honor, and praise
from all who are set free.
Amen.

One: Now may we pray after the pattern laid down
for us by Jesus, praying:

All: Liberator of the oppressed.
Deliverer of all who are being exploited,
holy is Your cause.
Now is the day! Now is the time, when this
earth becomes like Your heaven!
Each day provide what is needed for all to
live well.
Forgive our sins including our racism,
as we forgive all those who have sinned

against us.
Keep us from the temptation of
ignoring our evil
and keep us away from all self-justification.
For You are the deliverer of the oppressed,
the cry of the exploited, and the help of all
who are abused, always.
Amen.

Anti-Racism Litany

- One: United Methodist's believe that God created all persons as God's unique and beloved children.
- All: Why? "God created humans in Their image, in the image of God they created them; male and female they created them." Genesis 1:27
- One: United Methodist's believe that racism opposes God's law.
- All: Why? "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." John 13:34-35
- One: United Methodist's believe that racism opposes God's goodness and love.
- All: Why? "Those who say, 'I love God,' and hate a brother or sister are liars, for those who do not love brothers and sisters, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen." I John 4:20
- One: United Methodist's believe that racism diminishes the image of God in each person.
- All: Why? "Truly I tell you, just as you did to the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me." Matthew 25:40b

Prayer after Communion

- All: Thank You for allowing us to be a part of this holy mystery found in Jesus Christ. Through this time together we have been changed, we have found the old ways of living passing away and have beheld something new. I new path, a deeper love, and a renewed vision for our lives. Now send us out to break down dividing walls, to give new sight to the blind, and to set prisoners free with the love of Christ. Amen.

- One: United Methodist's believe that racism is a sin.
- All: Why? "What God has made clean, you must not call profane." Acts 10:15b
- One: United Methodist's believe that racism destroys community.
- All: Why? "Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you but that you be knit together in the same mind and purpose." I Corinthians 1:10
- One: United Methodist's believe that racism harms people.
- All: Why? "For you put up with it when someone makes slaves of you or preys upon you or takes advantage of you or puts on airs or gives you a slap in the face. To our shame, I must say, we were too weak for that!" 2 Corinthians 11:20-21
- One: United Methodist's believe that racism undermines God's work in the world.
- All: Why? "For Christ is our peace, in his flesh he has made us both into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us, abolishing the law with its commandments and ordinances, that he

might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace and might reconcile both to God in one body through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it." Ephesians 2:14-17

One: United Methodist's believe that racism must be eradicated.

All: Why? "The fruit of the spirit is love joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things." Galatians 5:22-23

One: United Methodist's are committed to confronting and eliminating all forms of racism.

All: Why? "So then, putting away falsehood, let each of you speak the truth with your neighbor, for we are members of one another." Ephesians 4:25

One: United Methodist's are committed to confronting and eliminating racial inequity.

All: Why? "Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ." Galatians 6:2

One: United Methodist's are committed to confronting and eliminating colonialism.

All: Why? "If, there is any comfort in Christ, any consolation from love, any partnership in the Spirit, any tender affection and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and one mind." Philippians 2:1-2

One: United Methodist's are committed to confronting and eliminating white privilege.

All: Why? "Do nothing from selfish ambition or empty conceit, but in humility regarding others as better than yourself. Let each of you look not to your own interests but to the interests of others." Philippians 2:3-4

One: United Methodist's are committed to confronting and eliminating white supremacy in every facet of life and in the society at large.

All: Why? "There is no longer Jew or Greek; there is no longer slave or free; there is no longer male and female, for all of you are one in Christ Jesus." Galatians 3:28

Affirmation of Faith

We believe that all persons are God's unique and beloved children. Therefore, we believe that racism is opposed to God's law of love. We believe that racism is opposed to God's goodness and love bestowed upon all of humanity and that it diminishes the image of God found in every person. We believe that racism is a sin, that it is a destroyer of community and is a harm to all humanity. Racism undermines God's work in the world. Therefore, we believe that

racism must be eradicated. We commit ourselves to confronting and eradicating racism in all its forms, racial inequity wherever it is found, colonialism and white privilege. We believe we are called to commit ourselves to confronting and eliminating white supremacy from every facet of life and in the society in which we live as we seek to live in God's kin-dom upon the earth.