



## Prayer of Confession

(from the Amistad dedication)

Living God, we come before you and each other today to search our ways and thoughts and to acknowledge the truth of our personal and collective journeys, in holy anticipation of your transforming grace.

We confess how often we neglect to respond and refuse to listen to your voice calling us into communion with you and into your cleansing love.

**We prefer to be centered in ourselves.**

We confess how often we neglect and refuse to heed the cry and pain of all our neighbors on life's journey.

**We prefer to listen to ourselves.**

We confess how often we neglect and refuse your truth.

**We prefer our own truths and myths.**

We confess how often we neglect and refuse to address the legacy of genocide, slavery and colonialism.

**We prefer our slanted histories and selfish liberties.**

We confess how often we neglect and refuse to have the highest and holiest regard for all your children.

**We prefer those of our own ancestry, those of our own kind.**

We confess how often we neglect and refuse the unity of your one Spirit over all the earth.

**We prefer the prison of our pride and our divisions.**

We confess how often we neglect and refuse to share the bounties of the earth.

**We prefer our privileges.**

We confess how often we neglect and refuse to stop the hate, oppression and violence inflicted on those who are different.

**We prefer our own safety and comfort.**

We confess how often we neglect and refuse to congregate in your name and for the sake of the world.

**We prefer our stadiums, arenas, and social halls.**

We confess how often we neglect and refuse simply to love you with all our hearts, minds and souls, and our neighbors as ourselves.

**We prefer to love our gods and ourselves more than we love you and each other.**

Loving God, we repent of our neglect and refusal to follow your ways and thoughts.

**We pray that you will have mercy on us, forgive us and free us to know, embrace and live truthfully and wholly in you and in each other, now and always. Amen.**