



Pastoral Prayer to Open our Hearts to Dialogue

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Jesus, you are our example for a Sacred Conversation on Race.

In you we learn what it is
to commune together in the heart of God.

We ought to be comforted in the knowledge
that we are created in the image of God.

Yet, do we embody this knowledge in thought, word, and deed?
Help us Jesus! You, who embodied the image of God most perfectly:

Help us to see what you see
in all the diverse faces of this world;
help us to see the HUMAN FACE.

Where are the differences, Jesus?

How can we start a Sacred Conversation on Race with someone
outside our racial and cultural identities
when we feel there is no trust relationship to build on?
It is absurd to do this.

Show us the way, Jesus.

How can we be intentional about going out of our way
to relate with someone outside of our race and culture?

How can we nurture the relationship
in a way that opens and does not threaten?

Show us your Way, Jesus.

We look at your short life, and see that you showed us
who to include at your banquet table, at your party, Jesus.

When you invite, we are all welcome.

But to this day we continue not to understand
what you were all about and why you did what you did.

We accuse your disciples of not understanding your purposes,
but we are the same, too.

Help our church leaders, help all of us, see more clearly
the vision of what you are all about.

When you come first, we glorify you.

If each and everyone in the United Church of Christ
chooses to reach out in dialogue
even to just one person of
another race, culture, race, sexual orientation

Would that make a difference, Jesus?

Jesus, show us how to make this Conversation on Race truly sacred;
show us what it means to commune together in the heart of God. Amen.

