



O COMPASSIONATE HEALER

PRAYERS FOR RACIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY

For use on February 12, 2006, sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

On Racial Justice Sunday, congregations of the United Church of Christ examine the legacy of racism in the United States and around the world. It is a time to call for God's new day of shalom, God's peace. Racial Justice Sunday is intended to be more than a time to challenge personal attitudes, but is when the light of the Gospel is fixed upon the realm of public policy. Within such a realm, the public has the power to either perpetuate or assist in healing systemic inequalities. These prayers invite both such personal and public reflection before God, the compassionate healer.

A Prayer of Approach

(A worship leader or with the entire congregation may pray the following.)

O God of unconditional love,
you who show no partiality in respect to persons, nations, or races,
we have heard your good news of great joy for all the people,
We hear that good news, and in hearing, believe.
We know that your sanctuary is a house of worship for all people,
with no regard for the color of our skin.
As we worship you, knit us into a people,
a seamless garment of many colors.
May we celebrate our unity, made whole in our diversity. Amen.

A Litany of Confession based on Mark 1:40-45

One: O Compassionate Healer, we believe that if you choose, you can make us clean.

People: Compassionate Healer, make us clean.



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A Litany of Confession based on Mark 1:40-45

One: O Compassionate Healer, we believe that if you choose, you can make us clean.

People: Compassionate Healer, make us clean.

One: Cleanse us from the sins of racism that infect us.
Wash away the secretly and openly harbored belief
that anyone is are intrinsically more worthy that others,
simply because of the color of skin.

People: Compassionate Healer, make us clean.

One: From participation in sinful structures that favor one race of
people over others,

People: Compassionate Healer, make us clean.

One: From educational systems that leave behind children of color
more frequently than their white sisters and brothers,

People: Compassionate Healer, make us clean.

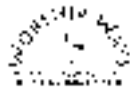
One: From systems of healthcare that leaves persons of color
at the bottom of all indicators of health,

People: Compassionate Healer, make us clean.

One: From a criminal justice system that leads
to one out of five Black men being incarcerated
at least once in their lives,

People: Compassionate Healer, make us clean.

**All: Gracious One, cleanse us from all forms
of racial hatred and prejudice.
We repent of participating in systems
which allow some of us privilege, simply because of race.
Empower us to work towards the day
when all persons will not be judged by the color of their skins,
but by the content of their character.
In the spirit and mighty name of Jesus. Amen.**



These prayers were prepared by Wallace Ryan Kuroiwa, minister and team leader for the Racial Justice Ministry team of Justice and Witness. For more information, you may reach him by e-mail at ryankurw@ucc.org or DeBorah Gilbert White, minister for antiracism and conflict resolution by e-mail at whited@ucc.org,

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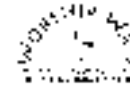
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