



Image credit - Mother of God: Mother of the Streets by Kelly Latimore

Prayer Service for **Racial Justice**



Our Lady of Peace Parish

Wednesday, June 24th 2020

Opening Song: All are Welcome

Opening Prayer:

Wake me up Lord, so that the evil of racism
finds no home within me.
Keep watch over my heart Lord,
and remove from me any barriers to your grace,
that may oppress and offend my brothers and sisters.
Fill my spirit Lord, so that I may give
services of justice and peace.
Clear my mind Lord, and use it for your glory.
And finally, remind us Lord that you said,
"blessed are the peacemakers,
for they shall be called children of God."
Amen.

Psalm 10

Why, my God, do you stay so far away?
Why do you hide in these bitter times?
Wickedness swells up,
The oppressed are worn down.

**Oh God, rise up. Reach out your hands,
remembering your wounded people.
Oh people, do not scorn our Maker,
saying, "God does not see this wickedness."**

For God watches over all toil and labor,
And sees each moment of anguish.

God, You restore what was lost,
giving to the poor with Your own hands.
Orphans cling to You for comfort.

**Tear us away from the power of wickedness,
show us the emptiness of violence.
Our God reigns forever and ever,
in every nation, over all wandering people.**

You listen to the longing and the suffering,
and steady their hearts.
Your reign is justice for those crushed by mourning,
Turn all hearts away from oppression.

Self-reflection:

- Have I fully loved God and fully loved my neighbor as myself?
- Have I caused pain to others by my actions or my words that offended my sister or my brother?
- Have I done enough to inform myself about the sin of racism, its roots, and its historical and contemporary manifestations?
- Have I opened my heart to see how unequal access to economic opportunity, jobs, housing, and education on the basis of skin color, race, or ethnicity, has denied and continues to deny the equal dignity of others?
- Is there a root of racism within *me* that blurs my vision of who my neighbor is?
- Have I ever witnessed an occasion when someone "fell victim" to personal, institutional, systematic or social racism and I did or said nothing, leaving the victim to address their pain alone?
- Have I ever witnessed an occasion when someone "fell victim" to personal, institutional, systematic or social racism with *me* inflicting the pain, acting opposite of love of God and love of neighbor?
- Have I ever lifted up and aided a person who "fell victim" to personal, institutional, systematic or social racism and paid a price for extending mercy to the other? How did I react? Did my faith grow? Am I willing to grow even more in faith through my actions?

I recognize that racism manifests in my own individual thoughts, attitudes, actions, and inactions. It also manifests in social structures and unjust systems that perpetuate centuries of racial injustice. For my individual actions and my participation in unjust structures, I seek forgiveness and move towards reconciliation. I look into my heart and ask for the will and the strength to help contribute to the healing of racism in my time.

-Moment of silence to contemplate where God is speaking to you within this work of racial justice-

Meditation Song: This is Our Room

Reading from the Gospel of Luke 10: 25-37

Reflection/ Homily

Prayer Intentions

Please respond: Turn our hearts to You, O God

Our Father

Closing Prayer:

Good and gracious God,
Who loves and delights in all people,
we stand in awe before You,
knowing that the spark of life within each person on earth is the spark of your divine life.
Differences among cultures and races are multicolored manifestations of Your Light.
May our hearts and minds be open to celebrate similarities and differences among our sisters and
brothers.
We place our hopes for racial harmony in our committed action and in Your Presence in our
Neighbor.
May all peoples live in Peace.
AMEN.

Closing Song: Prayer of Saint Francis

Please join us again for **Church in Dialogue: Racial Justice**
Wednesday, July 8th at 6:30pm

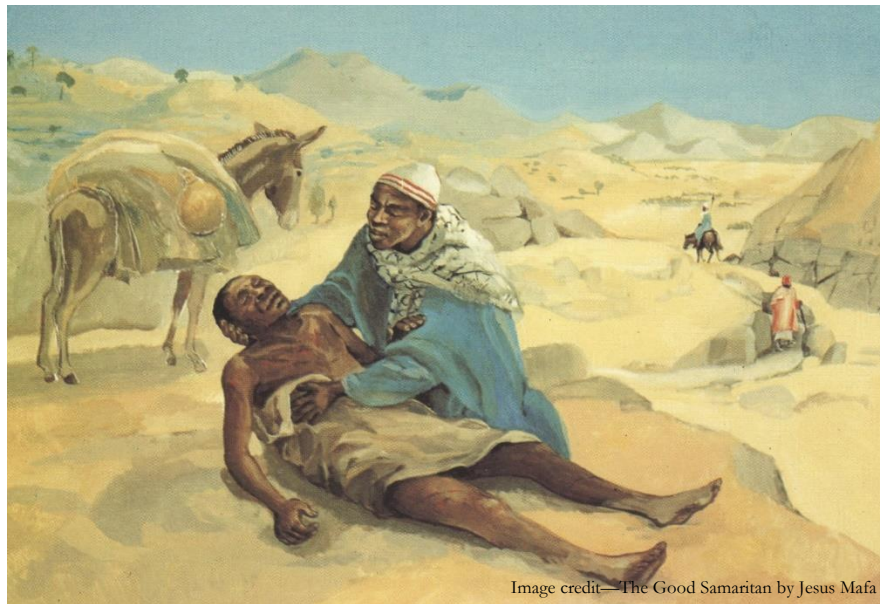


Image credit—The Good Samaritan by Jesus Mafa