

As we remember our day of fasting and prayer on Sunday, December 11, 2016, we remember to continue to “Follow in the footsteps of Jesus, as we commit ourselves to examine the root causes of injustice, *particularly racism*. We pledge prayer, education and advocacy and commit to using our resources in collaboration with others to establish justice which reflects God’s abundant love and desire that all may have life.” (LCWR Assembly Resolution, 2016)



Song: "All Are Welcome" by Marty Haugen or "Wade in the Water"

Opening Prayer: Good and gracious God, you invite us to recognize and reverence your divine image and likeness in our neighbor. Enable us to see the reality of racism and free us to challenge and uproot it from our society, our world and ourselves. Amen.

Reflection: The face of racism looks different today from how it looked in the past. Overt racism is easily condemned, but the sin of racism is often with us in more subtle forms. This day we gather in the love of God and neighbor to examine one of the four patterns of racism in our hearts, and our world systems. We beg for both forgiveness and conversion as we open our hearts and minds in communal prayer.

Spatial Racism Spatial Racism is the term given to patterns of metropolitan development in which the affluent create racially and economically segregated suburbs or gentrified areas of cities, leaving the economically poor - mainly African Americans, Hispanics and some newly arrived immigrants -- isolated in deteriorating areas of the cities and older suburbs.

The devastating impact of massive economic disparities between communities and of isolating people geographically according to race, religion, and class is well documented. Spatial racism creates a visible chasm between those who are rich and those who are poor, as well as between Caucasian people and people of color.

Let us pray as we reflect on some of the economic inequities that result from this form of racism. Those who live in the economically depressed areas:

- Lack decent affordable housing
- Lack adequate staff, faculty, buildings, and supplies for public schools
- Have little or no opportunities for jobs near home and insufficient public transit to jobs in the suburbs.
- 59 % of the time African Americans seek to buy houses, they encounter discrimination.

Silence:

Response: We beg for both forgiveness and conversion as we open our hearts and minds in communal prayer.

