

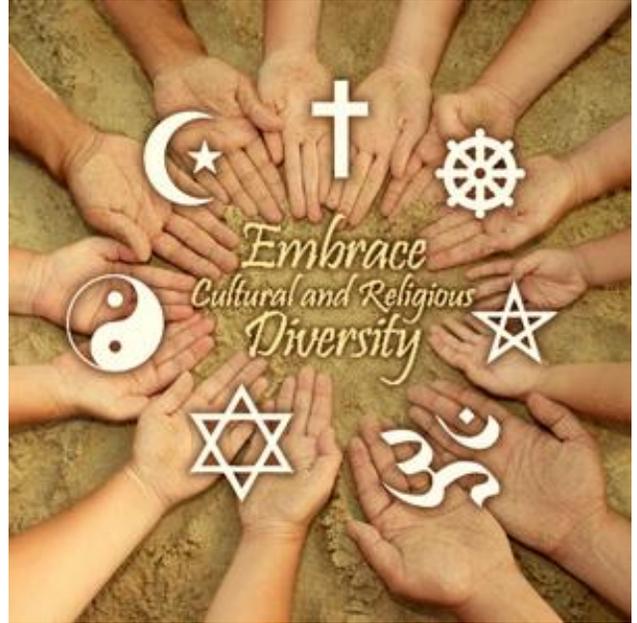
January 11, 2017

As we remember our day of fasting and prayer on Wednesday, January 11, 2017, 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

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. This day we gather in the love of God and neighbor to examine the second of 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.

Institutional Racism:

Institutional Racism is the term given to patterns of social and racial superiority that continue as long as no one challenges them. In this pattern of racism people who assume, consciously or unconsciously, that Caucasian people are superior create and sustain institutions that privileged people like themselves and habitually ignore the contributions of other peoples and cultures. White privilege often goes undetected because it has become internalized and integrated as part of one's worldview by custom, habit and tradition.

Let us pray as we reflect on some of the injustices resulting from this form of racism.

- Institutions that devalue the presence and contributions of people of color and celebrate only the contributions of Caucasians.
- Indifference to rates of violence against lives of Blacks, Hispanics, Asians and native peoples.
- A disproportionate number of Blacks, Hispanics, Asians and Native Americans and economically poor are on death row.
- Health Insurance – the uninsured rate for African Americans, Hispanics and Native Americans is more than one and a half times the rate for white Americans.
- In professional circles of politics, business, social groups, and religious entities, the official representatives are predominately White.

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