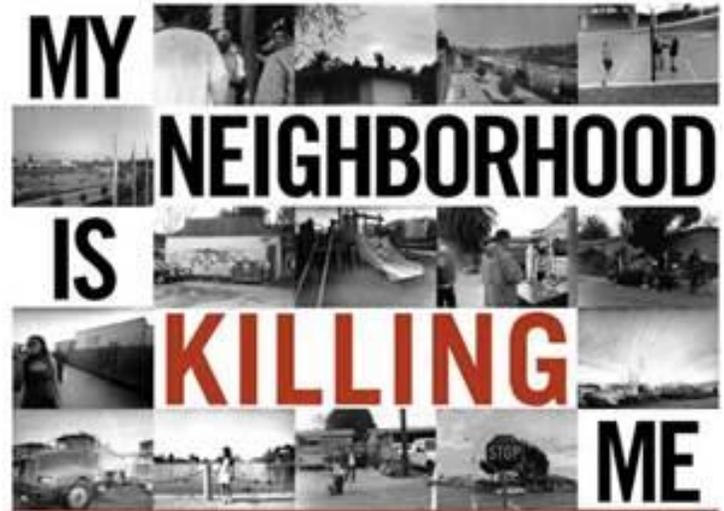


As we remember our day of fasting and prayer on Saturday, February 11, 2017, we remember to continue to “Follow in the footsteps of Jesus, as we commit ourselves to examine the root causes of injustice, **particularly racism**. We pledge prayer, education and advocacy, and commit to using our resources in collaboration with others to establish justice which reflects God’s abundant love and desire that all may have life.”

(LCWR Assembly Resolution, 2016)



**Opening Prayer:** *Contemplative Silence*

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 third 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.

**Environmental Racism** is a term given to the pattern of racism linking pollution and poverty. Caught in a spiral of poverty and environmental degradation, the poor and the powerless most directly bear the burden and suffer disproportionately from the harmful effects of pollution.

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

- Three out of five African Americans and Latino Americans live in communities with abandoned toxic waste sites.
- Forty-six percent of USA housing units for the economically poor, mostly people of color, are within a mile of factories that reported toxic emissions to the Environmental Protection Agency.
- African American children are five times more likely to be victims of lead poisoning than Caucasian children.
- Asthma and air pollution are linked. African American populations are concentrated in cities that failed the EPS ambient air quality standards. African Americans and Latinos are almost three times more likely than Caucasians to die from asthma.



*Silence*

**Response:**

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