

As we remember our day of fasting and prayer on Tuesday, April 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)

Contemplative Silence

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.

Communal Reflection Questions

on the four patterns of racism in our hearts and our world systems:

1. How can we reach out beyond our level of comfort to meet and learn about others, hear their stories and be open to their full humanity?
2. What kind of projects can we identify that bring together different individuals, schools, parishes, small groups and / or communities to work together on an issue?
3. What questions can we begin to ask and how can we examine the policies of our local, national and international community to make sure they do not discriminate against minorities and others that have not enjoyed full citizenship in some way?
4. How can we bring diversity and respect for others into our prayers, our worship celebrations and our holy days and holidays?

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 Lord Jesus.
May all peoples live in Peace.
AMEN.

