Racial Justice

***Intercessions***

God of love and of justice,

We pray for an end to racism.

For those who bear the legacy of centuries of discrimination,

fear, and violence.

*For our Church*, in all her beauty and brokenness, that we may all celebrate

and welcome the diverse faces of Christ in our community, our worship, our

ministries, and our leaders. *Let us pray to the Lord.*

*For world leaders*, that they may work to end the violence perpetrated by

verbal attacks, deadly weapons, and cold indifference. May our country and

countries around the world become havens of peace. *Let us pray to the Lord.*

*For parents and educators*, that we may teach our children how to resolve

differences non-violently and respectfully and have the courage to model it

in our own behaviour. *Let us pray to the Lord.*

*For solidarity in our global human family*, that we may be vigilant in our protection of those who are most vulnerable and most in need. *Let us pray to the Lord.*

*For our governments*, that the Spirit of Wisdom may help them strive to work for equal education, suitable housing, and equal employment opportunities for all. *Let us pray to the Lord.*

Today, as we pray in this community of faith – keep watch over our hearts Lord, and remove from us any barriers to your grace, that may oppress and offend our brothers and sisters.

Fill our spirits Lord, that we may minister justice.

Clear our minds Lord, that we may unlearn and relearn.

Energise our words and actions, that we may be people of presence and peace.

In Jesus’ name these things we pray, Amen.

*Ellie Clack, Coventry*

***by Racial Justice and Multiculturalism***

***Evangelical Alliance of Baptist Churches***

**(This prayer is more poignant with multiple voices.)**

We cry out to you, O God,

praying with anguish in our souls and sorrow in our hearts

silently screaming tears of pain and rage

of disbelief and sadness.

*How long, O God?* **All: Come, Lord Jesus.**

How long must we endure the unjust destruction of Black lives

that decrees some lives are more valuable than others?

*How long, O God?* **All: Come, Lord Jesus.**

How long before the desire for justice within our hearts fans into flame,

a practice of justice that is tangible and realized in our daily lives,

our schools, churches, courts and society.

*How long, O God?* **All: Come, Lord Jesus.**

We lift up the cries of our black and brown neighbours.

Those of us who bear the mark of privilege want to cry out with them.

And while we have found ourselves crying,

cursing and lamenting over the lack of justice,

we are reminded that our tears begin from the sanctuary of whiteness—

not the pit of oppression.

*How long, O God?* **All: Come, Lord Jesus.**

We are angry and disappointed.

We are unsure what to say or do.

We feel guilty and ashamed.

God, we trust in your steadfast love.

We call upon your strength to seek justice and equality

from law enforcement, magistrates, prosecutors, and juries.

*God, we call upon your wisdom.* **All: Come, Lord Jesus**

As we seek to hold our structures and each another

accountable to the common good

our desire is to affirm our oneness in you.

God, we call upon your justice as we work to eliminate policies and practices

that legislate inequality, disparity and disproportionality.

*God, we call upon your Justice.* **All: Come, Lord Jesus**

God, we call upon your help as people of faith

to speak boldly and prophetically against racial injustice everywhere.

We realize that justice cannot be legislated,

nor can a change of hearts and minds be mandated.

But, this is what we pray perhaps more than anything –

to discover a beloved community in your Church

where people are not judged explicitly or implicitly by the colour of their skin

but rather by the content of their character.

*God, we call upon your hope.* **All: Come, Lord Jesus**

In spite of our effort and longing for that community,

we have not yet found it — not in our society and not in ourselves.

For when we are honest,

we know that there is sin in each of us

that builds walls to shut others out,

chooses to remain blind to our privilege,

and acts to safeguard our power.

*God, we call upon your truth.* **All: Come, Lord Jesus**

We cry out to you, O’ God,

for there is no one else who will hear our plea,

for life, for justice, for acceptance, for equality.

*How long, O God?* **All: Come, Lord Jesus.**

May we cry aloud the heaviness in our hearts.

May we work for peace and justice in our world,

as we await the incarnation of God’s love in us. **Amen**.

***Litany***

***by Eda Uca, USA***

*Adopted from Jer 6:14; Ezek 13:10-11a*

They treat the wounds of our people lightly.

**They dress the wounds of our people, as though it were not serious.**

“Peace, peace,” they say, when there is no peace;

**Saying “Peace,” when there is no peace, they lead our people astray.**

When that flimsy wall is built,

**they cover it with whitewash.**

Tell those who dress the wounds of our people superficially

**and those who hide behind deceit and cover it with whitewash**:

The Lord our God is coming: He will bind the wounds of our people.

**The Lord our God is coming and when he comes the wall will fall.**

***Responsory***

*by R. F. T. Murphy*

*from Revelation 15.3-4*

**Song of the Lamb**

We sing the song of the Lamb,

**From all nations we come to worship you.**

For your deeds are great and amazing!

**Your ways are just and true.**

You are King of all the nations!

**Who will not glorify your name?**

For you alone are holy,

 and your justice is revealed to all.

**From all nations we come to worship you,**

 **for your ways are just and true.**

*from Revelation 7.9-10*

 **A Cry of All Nations**

We stand before the throne of the Lamb of God.

**We are a great multitude that no one could count.**

We come from every nation, all tribes, peoples of every language.

**Robed in white, branches of palms in our hands,**

 **we stand and worship the Lamb.**

We stand as one nation before the throne.

**Our voices are one, we are united in our cry.**

Salvation belongs to our God.

**The Lamb, our God who is seated on the throne.**