

Prayer of Lament

There is much to lament about our history as a nation and as a church as regards the sin of racism. Lament is a way of praying during which a person or community cries out to God and expresses deep pain. We have come a long way, but there is still much to be done. Yet in the spirit of lament, we hold firmly to the belief that God is in our midst, that there is no pain, no hurt, no injustice so deep that God is not deeper.

We also have much to confess. Without confession, true confession, that acknowledges the pain and harm that we have caused to one another and to ourselves we will not be able to heal from the sin of racism.

Members of Montview's Anti-racism Trust Team will share our prayers of lament and of confession. These are our personal lamentations and confessions as we acknowledge that we are one body in Christ:

Let us pray:

We lament that as a people of God, we often fail to truly internalize and follow the teaching of Christ to love all of God's children.

We lament the lives lost, families broken, and communities hurt by the impact of systemic racism.

We lament that we have denied the blood of liberation and have worshipped the chains of patriarchy.

We lament that white privilege is not acknowledged for all it so easily gives to white people... and all it so painfully takes away from those of color.

We lament that I didn't wake up until last year to the fact that my pursuit of perfectionism is the way I adopted white supremacist culture and allowed me to skip over the fact that I am Black.

We lament that our sisters and brothers of color continue to bear witness to systemic racism.

We confess to being asleep to the unchristian ways of our white community for hundreds of years.

We confess that we have not known what it really means to be a Christian or follower of Jesus the Christ.

We lament over the past history of our church of 1891 that has allowed us to worship the idol of white supremacy rather than the God of the bible.

We confess that sitting idle and only observing is not supporting all of God's children.

We confess that far too often we rush toward racial reconciliation before taking the time to understand the fullness of the injury and the depth of the wound, avoiding our discomfort and afraid to dwell in the pain that is life in community together.

We confess that we have not tied our destiny to the destiny of the African American people of this country, therefore we sin.

Jesus wept and we lament that your perception of me is tied to the color of my skin – my worth, my morality, my intelligence and my beauty.

We confess to knowing, to being part of a racist system, for it takes no effort being in my white male skin.

We lament I had not been radicalized by this knowledge earlier in my life. To call out things for what they are.

We confess that we live in a society more attuned to consumerism than ideology, one in which we question more than we believe.

We confess that, while our family ancestry may or may not have been slaveholders, all white people have greatly benefited from the inherited wealth that was a product of our slave economy to this day.

We confess that....We have internalized degrading stereotypes promoted by racism, and sexism, to the extent that we have dwarfed our capacity to effectively grow into the grace of God, thus dwarfing our call to excellence in the name of Christ.

We confess this reality without the crippling shame that would prevent our spiritual growth. Instead, our confession serves as an inspired awareness and insight that thrusts us further into the image and likeness of God without compromising said greatness always evolving within.

We invite you to take a moment to offer your own prayer of lament or confession.

Lord, Hear Our Prayer. AMEN.

By the Anti-Racism Trust Team
Montview Boulevard Presbyterian Church