

# A Prayer of Confession

Lord, we admit that we get so caught up in our own hardships that we overlook all the hardships faced by others around us.

Lord, we want to insist that we are not racist. But the truth is that sin is insidious. It silently grows inside us like a cancer. It's there even when we don't realize it.

Lord, we confess that racism has altered our vision, changing how we see the world. We confess that the cancer of racism has affected our language, our values, our instincts, our emotions, our gut-level reactions.

Lord, we confess that we have taken our privileges for granted. We have failed to take a long, hard look at who is excluded from the privileges that we automatically get to enjoy.

Lord, we confess that it's easier to do nothing—even when you call us to action. It's easier to be silent—even when our silence only aids and abets the evil in this world. Our society is the very embodiment of racial inequality when it comes to unemployment, income levels, poverty rates, home ownership, wealth, and incarceration rates—and yet we confess that we spend our days in worthless pursuits. We get distracted by our cell phones when you call us instead to break down the dams of racism so that justice and righteousness might flow forth across this land.

Lord, we confess that as individuals, as a race, as a people, as institutions, and as a society, we have made idols out of our own skin color. We have forgotten that everyone is made in the image of God.

Forgive us we pray. Send your Holy Spirit to work among us. Transform our lives. Heal our sick hearts. Give us the power to overcome hatred in this world, even the hatred in our own hearts that we're reluctant to admit is there. Help us lift each other's heavy burdens.

And prepare us for our heavenly home, where we will join people of every skin color, every language, every tribe, and every nation in worshipping you. Amen.