CLC Wave of Prayer—Sunday, July 18, 2021

On July 1, the city of Richmond announced that it would remove its remaining Confederate statues. On July 17—the one-year anniversary of Civil Rights activist John Lewis—the U.S. Navy christened a ship named after Lewis. The navy plans to name more ships after Civil Rights leaders.

- **God, we thank you for signs of hope and progress as city governments, federal institutions, and individuals become aware of systemic racism in our country. We pray that this knowledge will continue to grow, and ultimately lead to equity and justice for all. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

On May 25, a second bill banning Critical Race Theory, which looks at the effects of race on American society, was introduced in the Ohio legislature. According to Representative Don Jones, who introduced the bill, K-12 children should not be asked to "examine their whiteness" or "check their privilege." Ohio is one of 20 states which have introduced, or are considering introducing, similar bills.

- **God, while we see hope and progress in some areas, we also see setbacks, such as the potential banning of Critical Race Theory in schools. We pray that all children may learn how race has unjustly affected people of color in our country's past and present history so that they may help building a brighter future. Loving God, we offer you our prayer.**

July 6 marked the six-month anniversary of the Capitol riots in Washington D.C. To date, more than 535 people have been arrested, with more than 300 suspects still unidentified.

- **God, we pray that those involved in the Capitol riots, as well as all people seeking to protest, will see the value of protesting nonviolently. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

Since May, the unmarked graves of over 1,000 Indigenous children have been discovered in Canada on the sites of former residential schools. Between the late 19th and late 20th centuries, over 150,000 children in Canada were taken from their families and forced to assimilate—abandoning their languages and cultures. Many never made it back home. A similar history exists in the United States.

- **God, we pray that the U.S. government and complicit churches will formally apologize for the forced assimilation of Indigenous children and offer reparations for the survivors, as the Canadian government and several churches have already done. We pray for the protection of children, families, and cultures everywhere. Loving God, we offer you our prayer.**

On July 16, as a result of a lawsuit brought by nine U.S. states, a federal judge in Texas ruled that DACA is illegal. The Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, begun in 2012, provides protection to undocumented immigrants who were brought to the U.S. as children. The ruling blocks new applications for Dreamers.

- **God, we pray that congressional action will overturn the DACA ruling and allow permanent relief, that is, a legal pathway for several million undocumented immigrants, so that Dreamers need not live in fear of deportation. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

On July 11, Sir Richard Branson traveled into space, much to his long-awaited delight. To date, more than 600 people have paid a quarter of a million dollars each for their own future space tourism experience. At the same time, almost 9 percent of the world population—690 million people—go to bed hungry each night.

- **God, our hearts hurt for those who are hungry. We yearn for equity and justice in our world. We ask you to help us discover what we can do, both individually and collectively, to bring about equity and justice. Loving God, we offer you our prayer.**