

Standing, sitting or kneeling, let us pray to the Lord who made each and every one of us in His perfect image. When we hear, “Forgive us for where we have failed to understand, Lord,” let us all respond by saying “ ***Lord, in your mercy, set us free.***”

Jesus, we confess that we have inherited a faith that was used to justify the theft of native lands and the enslavement of Black bodies. From this, our original sin, we ask for deliverance. Forgive us for where we have failed to understand. “***Lord, in your mercy, set us free.***”

Touch hearts that have been shriveled by generations of suppressed empathy and eyes that have lost the ability to see siblings who suffer from systemic injustice. Forgive us for where we have failed to understand. ***Lord, in your mercy set us free.***

Grant us courage to renounce the false teaching that we can somehow know you without being committed to justice for all people. Forgive us for where we have failed to understand. ***Lord, in your mercy, set us free.***

In your mercy, help us mourn the divisions among the body of Christ and work for its healing in the places where we gather to worship you. Forgive us for where we have failed to understand. ***Lord, in your mercy, set us free.***

Caring God please bring healing to those that we have been asked to pray for, especially: ***Rob, Dennis, Ebba, Bill & Mary Lou, Jean & Garry, Dorothy & Joyce, Richard, Peter, Barbara, Beulah, Hadley and Dot.*** ***Lord, in your mercy, set us free.***

Embolden us to resist the political forces that oppose the expansion of democracy by appealing to traditional values and idealizing a past when white men were in charge. Forgive us for where we have failed to understand. ***Lord, in your mercy, set us free.***

As we name and unlearn the habits of slaveholder religion, give us grace to draw deeply from the witness of the movements that have always resisted injustice in the power of your Spirit. Forgive us for where we have failed to understand. ***Lord, in your mercy, set us free.***

We give thanks that there is a river of witnesses that flows from Harriet Tubman to Josiah Henson, from Abraham Beverly Walker to Mary Ann Shadde and Mary Elizabeth Bibb, from Viola Davis Desmond to Willie O'Ree to the prophetic leaders who guide us today. Give us grace to follow them to freedom. Forgive us for where we have failed to understand, *Lord, in your mercy, set us free.*

Compassionate God, who sent Jesus Christ to deliver us from all manner of injustices and inequalities, create in us new hearts and enlarged visions, to see the image of God in every person irrespective of background, race and ethnicity. May we be generous in our love of others as we work towards ending misunderstanding, racism and injustice; creating communities of human flourishing, through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**