

Dear Lord,

We come before you today repenting of our lack of engagement with justice concerns. Forgive us when we commit the sin of racism and forgive our systems and institutions when they fail in this area.

Enable us by your divine grace and your Holy Spirit to confront racial injustice, inequality and renew our commitment to pursuing racial justice.

Let our churches and organisations be at the forefront of advancing racial justice concerns and denouncing any form of abuse through your kingdom on earth.

Help us to continually seek the image of Christ in others and remind us that we, your people, are made in the image of a God of justice who calls on us to 'act justly'. Help us to resist the evil temptation to exclude, discriminate and uphold harmful ideologies that cause division and hate in our communities and church.

We pray as a nation that we move beyond seeing racial equality as a moment, but as a movement towards your justice.

Give us the courage to stand up for justice in those places and spaces inhabited by the sin of racism, which has no place in your kingdom.

Take away the well-meaning, but unhelpful 'colour blind' theologies that deny the reality of the racism faced by many in our churches and society.

May we know that their struggles are our struggles, because racial justice is everyone's business.

And finally,

If the world insists that the black lives on the margins are weak,

Remind us that in your kingdom those at the margins are seen as strong.

If the world tells us of that the fate of the just must be dictated by the unjust

Remind us that in your kingdom the unjust are transformed by the just.

If the world declares that racial terror does not exist,

Remind us that in your kingdom truth joins hands with justice.

If the world believes there is nothing more to hope for,

Remind us that your kingdom is built by those who hope and believe change will come.

Amen.

#CandleOfJustice

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