

## Litany to End Racism and Discrimination

(Adapted from Orangethorpe United Methodist Church, Fullerton, CA)

One: Gracious Creator of the one human race, through Jesus Christ you love each unique child of God. Forgive us for our reluctance to open the deepest corners of our hearts and be honest with you. Help all gathered in this space to speak honestly of our brokenness, before one another and before you. Let us join our prayers in one accord this day. For an end to our blindness to discrimination in all its forms, our fixation on self-centered politics, and our drifting away from your concern for those living in the margins of society, we pray ...

**All: Judge of our souls, hear our prayer.**

One: That we may respect the inherent dignity of those we have neglected, and value them all as members of our churches and communities, we pray ...

**All: Judge of our souls, hear our prayer.**

One: That within the imperfect body of Christ, the Church, we may repent and lead by example of what a beloved community looks like, we pray ...

**All: Judge of our souls, hear our prayer.**

One: That in Christ's forgiveness, we may acknowledge our part in the past crimes against others and sins that contribute today to our discrimination, our racism, and our bigotry, we pray ...

**All: Judge of our souls, hear our prayer.**

One: That a spirit of understanding might fill us as we seek to comprehend a fuller understanding of our history, filled with hatred, aggression, and half truths, we pray ...

**All: Judge of our souls, hear our prayer.**

One: That Jesus might serve as our guide to true reconciliation as we work to repair our relationships with those we oppress with acts of racial injustice, even as we seek to deal with the many ways we continue to perpetuate that oppression, we pray ...

**All: Judge of our souls, hear our prayer.**

One: That through your Holy Spirit, we may continue in the struggle for civil rights, economic justice and to elimination of institutional discrimination starting with us in your church, we pray ...

**All: Judge of our souls, hear our prayer.**

One: For the conversion of our hearts and the hearts and minds of all who allow perceptions of race to influence their relationships and limit your beloved community, we pray ...

**All: Judge of our souls, hear our prayer.**

One: That with Christ, we may influence the attitudes of others by expressly rejecting stereotypes, slurs, and jokes and be more affirming of the contributions of marginalized cultural groups throughout our Jurisdiction and society, we pray ...

**All: Judge of our souls, hear our prayer.**

One: That in the promises of God, we might make a personal and lasting commitment to you to abolish structures in our church and society which inhibit economic, educational and social advancement of those we continue to make poor by our oppression and discrimination, we pray ...

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**All: Judge of our Souls, hear our prayer. Almighty God, I thank you most humbly for the awesome gift of diversity, and I acknowledge you as Creator of every race, culture, language and way of life. Help us see others as you see me, as your beloved child, sustained by your parental care. Keep watch over my heart so that I might find where I am blind to my privilege and the great harm I do to the lives of others by my thoughtless words, thoughts and deeds. Help me to use all your gifts not for my own enrichment but like Christ for the empowerment and freedom of others. Hear our prayers in Jesus' Name. Amen.**