

STANDING COMMISSION ON LITURGY AND MUSIC SUBCOMMITTEE ON RACIAL JUSTICE & RECONCILIATION

Membership

Mr. Christopher Decatur, <i>Chair</i>	Ohio, V	2018
Ms. Nancy Bryan		2018
Ms. Athena Hahn	North Carolina, IV	2018
The Rev. Canon Sandye Wilson	Newark, II	2018
The Rev. Devon Anderson, <i>Ex Officio</i>	Minnesota, VI	2018
The Rev. Lowell Grisham, <i>Consultant</i>	Arkansas, VII	
The Rev. Deon Johnson, <i>Consultant</i>	Michigan, V	
Ann Phelps, <i>Consultant</i>		

Mandate

2015-A182: *Address Systemic Racial Injustice* of the 78th General Convention of the Episcopal Church calls the wider Church to be in conversation and take action on Racial Reconciliation and Justice. Specifically, the eighth resolve calls on the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music to produce and post applicable prayers:

Resolved, That the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music produce and post online a set of prayers for racial reconciliation and justice, suitable for inclusion in the Prayers of the People; and be it further

Summary of Work

In response to 2015-A182 members of the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music formed a subcommittee on Racial Reconciliation to be led by SCLM member Christopher Decatur. The following is a report on our work as well as resources created.

The subcommittee requested materials from the wider Church by a letter posted through the SCLM blog. This call was for members of the church to send any prayers or litanies to be considered and/or resources that discuss racial reconciliation and justice.

In October 2016, following a review of existing materials, the subcommittee issued another call to the Church and created a new plan of action. We received 24 documents, which encompassed a wide

array of resources, including prayers, music, and services. The subcommittee determined the need to work with writers outside the membership of the Standing Commission to produce up to twelve prayers, addressing a range of concerns related to reconciliation, with at least six of those to be made available online. Polling SCLM members for their recommendations of individuals who could support us in our work, the subcommittee began conversations with the Rev. Lowell Grisham, the Rev. Deon Johnson and Ms. Ann Phelps. Christopher Decatur spoke with SCLM Chair Devon Anderson about the funding necessary to enable this work.

Lowell Grisham has written a complete set of Prayers of the People for Years A, B, & C and major feasts. A senior deputy to General Convention, Lowell has served as chair and vice-chair of the Prayer Book, Liturgy and Church Music Committee. Lowell was chosen as a writer by this subcommittee because he has experience in writing prayers used by the wider Church.

Deon K. Johnson serves as a Liturgist and Liturgical Consultant to communities going through renewal. Deon is also a Deputy to General Convention and a consultant to the New Visions growth and redevelopment initiative. Deon was chosen as a writer by this subcommittee because he is a strong liturgist.

Ann Phelps has an academic background in theology and the arts; her work explores the ways that we can recover lost voices from tradition to help us expand our current worship practices and open our theology by reengaging communal chant, contemplation, and meditative music. Ann was chosen as a writer by this subcommittee because she is a strong liturgist who has experience in writing prayers.

Lowell Grisham produced one set of prayers that are not being submitted to the Church at this time due to time constraints in the editing process. The Rev. Deon Johnson produced two sets of prayers; one of which has been edited to produce three sets of prayers similar in content but with differing seasonal foci. Those prayers are included in this report; the other is not being submitted at this time due to time constraints in the editing process. Deon also produced a Commissioning for the Ministry of Justice and Reconciliation that is included as an additional resource. Ms. Ann Phelps produced one set of prayers, which was ultimately edited to become a Litany of Repentance and a set of Prayers of the People with a confession.

The following four sets of Prayers of the People, and the Litany of Repentance and Commissioning for the Ministry of Justice and Reconciliation will be made available on the SCLM blog.

The subcommittee would like to thank the following people for responding to the call to the wider Church for related resources already created: Anne Dulap, Jeffrey Deutsch, Heidi Rashidi, David Laurance, Karl Weber, Henry Lebendinsky, Heidi Kim, and Stephanie Spellers.

The subcommittee would also like to thank our writers, Deon Johnson, Ann Phelps and Lowell Grisham as well as our editors, Lydia Huttar Brown and Ernesto Medina.

Supplementary Materials

The following are included in these materials. In the digital version of this document the below titles are hyperlinked to the corresponding document.

[Prayers of the People with Confession](#)

[Prayers of the People for Advent](#)

[Prayers of the People for Christmas](#)

[Prayers of the People for Epiphany](#)

[Litany of Repentance](#)

[Commissioning for the Ministry of Justice and Reconciliation](#)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE WITH CONFESSION

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

God of love, we pray for your church: For *N.*, our Presiding Bishop; *N. (and N)*, our bishop(s); for all lay and ordained ministers; and for all who seek you in the community of the faithful. Equip us with compassion and love, to carry out your work of reconciliation in the world.

God of love,

Hear our prayers for the church.

Silence — Add your prayers, silently or in your hearts

God of freedom, we pray for our nation, and all the nations of the world: For peace and unity across barriers of language, color, and creed; for elected and appointed leaders, that they would serve the common good. Inspire all people with courage to speak out against hatred, to actively resist evil. Unite the human family in bonds of love.

God of freedom,

Hear our prayers for the world.

Silence — Add your prayers, silently or in your hearts

God of justice, we pray for the earth, your creation entrusted to our care: For the animals and birds, the mountains and oceans, and all parts of your creation that have no voice of their own. Stir up in us a thirst for justice that protects the earth and all its resources, that we may leave to our children's children the legacy of beauty and abundance that you have given us.

God of justice,

Hear our prayers for the earth.

Silence — Add your prayers, silently or in your hearts

God of peace, we pray for this community: For our local leaders; for our schools and markets; for our neighborhoods and workplaces. Kindle in every heart a desire for equality, respect, and opportunity for all. Give us courage to strive for justice and peace among all people, beginning here at home.

God of peace,

Hear our prayers for this community.

Silence — Add your prayers, silently or in your hearts

God of mercy, we pray for all in any kind of need or trouble: For those whose lives are closely linked with ours, and those connected to us as part of the human family. For refugees and prisoners; for the sick and suffering, the lonely and despairing; for those facing violence; for all held down by prejudice or injustice. Awaken in us compassion and humility of spirit, as we seek and serve Christ in all persons.

God of mercy,

Hear our prayers for all who are in need.

Silence — Add your prayers, silently or in your hearts

God of grace, we pray for those who have died: For the faithful in every generation who have worked for justice; for prophets who called us to racial reconciliation; for martyrs who died because of hatred; and for all the communion of saints. Make us faithful to your call to proclaim your Good News, by word and example, and bring us at last into the glorious company of the saints in light.

God of grace,

Hear our prayers for those who have died.

Silence — Add your prayers, silently or in your hearts

Concluding Collect

Hear our prayers, Holy God. Breathe your Spirit over us and all the earth, that barriers would crumble and divisions cease. Make us more fully your co-healers of the broken world. Unite us with all people in bonds of love, that the whole earth and all its peoples may be at peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

(or this)

Grant, O God, that your holy and life-giving Spirit may so move every human heart [and especially the hearts of the people of this land], that barriers which divide us may crumble, suspicions disappear, and hatreds cease; that our divisions being healed, we may live in justice and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen. (BCP p. 823)*

(or this)

O God, you made us in your own image and redeemed us through Jesus your Son: Look with compassion on the whole human family; take away the arrogance and hatred which infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; unite us in bonds of love; and work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish your purposes on earth; that, in your good time, all nations

and races may serve you in harmony around your heavenly throne; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.* (BCP p. 815)

CONFESSION

One: Let us confess our sins against God and one another.

Many: Almighty God, Source of all that is, Giver of every good gift:

You create all people in your image and call us to love one another as you love us.

We confess that we have failed to honor you in the great diversity of the human family.

We have desired to live in freedom,

while building walls between ourselves and others.

We have longed to be known and accepted for who we are,

while making judgements of others based on the color of skin, or the shape of features, or the varieties of human experience.

We have tried to love our neighbors individually

while yet benefitting from systems that hold those same neighbors in oppression.

Forgive us, Holy God.

Give us eyes to see you as you are revealed in all people.

Strengthen us for the work of reconciliation rooted in love.

Restore us in your image, to be beloved community,

united in our diversity,

even as you are one with Christ and the Spirit,

Holy and undivided Trinity, now and forever.

Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

SEASONS: Advent, Christmas, & Epiphany

THEME: Light & Reconciliation

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE FOR ADVENT

Deacon or other leader

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. *Isaiah 9:2*

You who dwell in darkness and light, in silence and sound, dwell in the hearts of your people. In hope, peace, and joy may we await with anticipation the coming of Christ the Morning Star.

Silence

Christ, be our light
Shine in our hearts.

You who framed the brightness of the first light in creation, dispel the arrogance, animosity, and anger that shatter the unity of your holy Church. Fill your faithful people with the radiant light of truth.

Silence

Christ, be our light
Shine in our hearts.

You who delivered your people from the misery of bondage in slavery to the land of promise, set us free from enslavement to division, disunity, and distrust in our public life and labor. Illumine those in authority with the light of vision.

Silence

Christ, be our light
Shine in our hearts.

You who patterned the stars and called the sun into being, who appointed the moon and chartered the cosmos, pattern the hearts of people everywhere to see in each other the beauty of the universe and the splendor of creation, that divisions of Race, Class, Gender, and Ethnicity may be recreated into one common humanity.

Silence

Christ, be our light
Shine in our hearts.

You who shower comfort and hope to the lowest, the lost, and the least, shower the light of compassion on the sick, the sorrowful, and the suffering [especially _____]. Help us to be your compassion and hope in the world.

Silence

Christ, be our light
Shine in our heart.

You who welcome into the brilliant light of eternity those who have died, welcome those whose lives have been cut short by violence, warfare, and strife [especially _____]. Shine the light of hope.

Silence

Christ, be our light
Shine in our heart.

You who delight in the complexity and splendor of creation, help us to delight in the diversity of this earth, our island home. Inspire your people to care for all you have made.

Silence

Christ, be our light
Shine in our heart.

Presider

May Christ, the Morning Star who knows no setting, find us ever burning with the light of love, the spirit of truth, and the wellspring of hope. *Amen.*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE FOR CHRISTMAS

Deacon or other leader

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. *John 1:5*

You who fashioned this holy time with the radiance of the Christ-Child, fill our hearts with the song of the angels that we may be makers and pursuers of peace.

Silence

Christ, be our light
Shine in our heart.

You who framed the brightness of the first light in creation, dispel the arrogance, animosity, and anger that shatter the unity of your holy Church. Fill your faithful people with the radiant light of truth.

Silence

Christ, be our light
Shine in our hearts.

You who delivered your people from the misery of bondage in slavery to the land of promise, set us free from enslavement to division, disunity, and distrust in our public life and labor. Illumine those in authority with the light of vision.

Silence

Christ, be our light
Shine in our hearts.

You who patterned the stars and called the sun into being, who appointed the moon and chartered the cosmos, pattern the hearts of people everywhere to see in each other the beauty of the universe and the splendor of creation, that divisions of Race, Class, Gender, and Ethnicity may be recreated into one common humanity.

Silence

Christ, be our light
Shine in our hearts.

You who shower comfort and hope to the lowest, the lost, and the least, shower the light of compassion on the sick, the sorrowful, and the suffering [especially _____]. Help us to be your compassion and hope in the world.

Silence

Christ, be our light
Shine in our heart.

You who welcome into the brilliant light of eternity those who have died, welcome those whose lives have been cut short by violence, warfare, and strife [especially _____]. Shine the light of hope.

Silence

Christ, be our light
Shine in our heart.

You who delight in the complexity and splendor of creation, help us to delight in the diversity of this earth, our island home. Inspire your people to care for all you have made.

Silence

Christ, be our light
Shine in our heart.

Presider

May Christ, the Morning Star who knows no setting, find us ever burning with the light of love, the spirit of truth, and the wellspring of hope. *Amen.*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE FOR EPIPHANY

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. Isaiah 60:1

Deacon or other leader

You who, by the leading of a star, guided the Magi to the brightness of the Holy Child of Bethlehem, lead us to the light of revelation, that we may value and honor the varied gifts of our sisters and brothers.

Silence

Christ, be our light
Shine in our heart.

You who framed the brightness of the first light in creation, dispel the arrogance, animosity, and anger that shatter the unity of your holy Church. Fill your faithful people with the radiant light of truth.

Silence

Christ, be our light
Shine in our hearts.

You who delivered your people from the misery of bondage in slavery to the land of promise, set us free from enslavement to division, disunity, and distrust in our public life and labor. Illumine those in authority with the light of vision.

Silence

Christ, be our light
Shine in our hearts.

You who patterned the stars and called the sun into being, who appointed the moon and chartered the cosmos, pattern the hearts of people everywhere to see in each other the beauty of the universe and the splendor of creation, that divisions of Race, Class, Gender, and Ethnicity may be recreated into one common humanity.

Silence

Christ, be our light
Shine in our hearts.

You who shower comfort and hope to the lowest, the lost, and the least, shower the light of compassion on the sick, the sorrowful, and the suffering [especially _____]. Help us to be your compassion and hope in the world.

Silence

Christ, be our light
Shine in our heart.

You who welcome into the brilliant light of eternity those who have died, welcome those whose lives have been cut short by violence, warfare, and strife [especially _____]. Shine the light of hope.

Silence

Christ, be our light
Shine in our heart.

You who delight in the complexity and splendor of creation, help us to delight in the diversity of this earth, our island home. Inspire your people to care for all you have made.

Silence

Christ, be our light
Shine in our heart.

Presider

May Christ, the Morning Star who knows no setting, find us ever burning with the light of love, the spirit of truth, and the wellspring of hope. *Amen.*

LITANY OF REPENTANCE

Dear people of God, our history is marred by oppression, by the enslavement of those who differ from us, and by the forces of racism that attack human dignity. The sin of racism is woven into our lives and our cultures, in small and great ways, in things done and things left undone.

As followers of Christ, we reject racism and the oppression of other human beings. In building Christ's beloved community, we must strive to love all people, respect all people, and work for the good of all people. We must stand alongside God's children of every race, language, and culture, and work together as agents of justice, peace, and reconciliation.

In the assurance of our forgiveness, let us kneel before God and humbly confess our sins: our participation in racism, our privilege based on racism, and our perpetuation of racism.

Silence is then kept for a time, all kneeling.

God the Father, you freed your people from slavery in Egypt, yet the legacy of slavery deforms our lives today.

Have mercy on us.

God the Son, you prayed that all would be united in your love and service, yet the divisions among us rend your body.

Have mercy on us.

God the Holy Spirit, you inspire us to live peaceably with all, yet the stain of genocide and internment mars our striving for justice.

Have mercy on us.

We have harmed one another and the earth through negligence, greed, and self-interest.

Have mercy on us.

We have failed to condemn discrimination that leads to unrest.

Have mercy on us.

We have decried violence, while overlooking inequity and frustration from which it rises.

Have mercy on us.

We have practiced injustice for economic gain and have oppressed others to make a false peace.

Have mercy on us.

We have sought comfort in advantage for ourselves at the cost of injustice for others.

Have mercy on us.

We have welcomed solace over conflict and ignored the cries of those harmed by our comfort.

Have mercy on us.

We have grasped for this world's goods, and been arrogant toward those who have little.

Have mercy on us.

We have not shared the good things we have been given, and blamed the poor for their poverty.

Have mercy on us.

We have been fearful and distrustful of those who are different from us.

Have mercy on us.

We have divided ourselves from others, and refused to listen to or believe their experience.

Have mercy on us.

We have been indifferent to the pain and suffering of our sisters and brothers.

Have mercy on us.

We have held in contempt those who need our help, and not loved them with our whole hearts.

Have mercy on us.

We have been self-satisfied in our privilege, and denied our oppression of others.

Have mercy on us.

We have preferred order over justice, and isolation over the struggle for peace.

Have mercy on us.

We have quietly held good intentions, and kept silent the message of reconciliation.

Have mercy on us.

We have failed to act with courage for the sake of love.

Have mercy on us.

Lord have mercy.

Christ have mercy.

Lord have mercy.

May Almighty God have mercy on us, grant us courage and conviction, and strengthen us to love others who are unlike us. May God, the Holy and Undivided Trinity, make us compassionate in our actions and courageous in our works, that we may see Christ's Beloved Community in our own day. *Amen.*

COMMISSIONING FOR THE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE AND RECONCILIATION

Dear People of God, we stand in the shadow of the prophets crying out for justice and peace. God calls us to be a people of reconciliation, serving a world in need. Courageous women and men have taken the risk of standing up and speaking out for the least and the lowest. This work involves risking ourselves for the sake of God's love, moving beyond ourselves in order to seek and serve Christ and one another. We are all called to the work and ministry of social justice and reconciliation.

Presider Will you persevere in prayer and fellowship?

People ***I will, with God's help.***

Presider Will you proclaim the good news of reconciliation in both word and deed?

People ***I will, with God's help.***

Presider Will you strive to see Christ in all persons, both with whom you agree and disagree?

People ***I will, with God's help.***

Presider Will you seek to mend what is broken by human sin and greed?

People ***I will, with God's help.***

Presider Will you work toward dismantling the sin of abuse of power?

People ***I will, with God's help.***

The Presider concludes

In the name of God and of this Church, I commission you to stand up, speak out and live into the reign of Christ our Savior. ***Amen.***