

16.06.20

Our Lament

Our God

We come before you just now,
Realising, believing, that wherever we stand, sit, kneel and prostrate, it is holy ground.
And you are with us, in us and beside us
For you are God.
God of justice and mercy
God of music

God we come bare, exposed, with hearts so broken
And confess that we are so guilty, so ashamed and in so much pain
For we did not see, did not speak even when we saw, did not feel and we chose to ignore it
We have been blind, silent and distant to the sin of racism for far too long
In us and around us
Racism abounds but God at this time we speak out and lament the pain of Afro, Caribbean
black people who have suffered and continue to suffer so much
There is so much beauty expressed in the variety of plants, birds, animals... constantly
amazing us, inviting us to discover more, and yet we realise how little we know
I have been wilfully blind
I have not really heard
I have found it easier to put words of sympathy than dare to keep silent in humility - to
really listen

But God we petition you because you are God of love
Reflected in us and we in you together
We remember how you have been with us
We know we can trust you and lean on you to help us dig deep as you have done many
times before
To face into ourselves and face into our world
We know and we cry out
Black lives matter too much to you and let that matter too much to us.

Help us God so that we may learn, discover, trust and stand in solidarity
I want to learn
Help those of us with power to either relinquish it or to use it to empower others
I want to learn how to stay and not turn away
Let us see Your face in our neighbour and Honour you

God we come to you with confidence like the widow we have read and heard about
We will not give up till you answer
Remind us of the impossible things that you have done
So that we may do such things now
God may we not ask of you what we are unwilling to do ourselves
Change the way our culture celebrates past 'glories'
Drag us into the hard conversations and hold us to account
Give us your courage

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Give us your hope
Make us shrewd and strategic, to be effective
May we use our voices well

And God we say these words with thanksgiving

Believing you are here

You hear

You see

You will act with us and in us

Thank you for this community

and for the chance of a new beginning

Thank you for the conversation tonight.

Thank You that Jesus chose to join the excluded and criminalised, rather than the righteous

Amen, Amen, Amen.