



Wednesday Prayer

2nd Sunday after Pentecost – Cure the sickness of racism

Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."

Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness.

Matthew 9:35-10:1

Cities and villages throughout the world are proclaiming the disease and the sickness of racism. Sometimes the crowds have been harassed and helpless as they peacefully protest, used as shields for destructive rioters, or surrounded and hauled away in police vehicles. Jesus was a radical, peaceful protester, always looking out for the marginalized and those who suffered from injustice. He summoned the disciples – every day laborers – to carry on his work.

Last week I talked about youth going out to peacefully protest, highlighting the verse “Go, make disciples.” We can look to our youth, and we should (they are amazing!) *and* we need to look within ourselves. We are in a time unlike what many of us have ever experienced. We have the opportunity to bring communities together like they have never been before. Our eyes have been opened, finally opened, to the authority we have been given as people of faith – to act for justice and change systems of oppression that have plagued communities of color for generations. Thank you for being on this journey with Cherish All Children.

Racism is rampant in sexual exploitation and human trafficking. Commercial sex buyers are predominantly white¹ while victims of sex and labor trafficking are disproportionately people of color². Predators prey upon the people society has marginalized. As we move forward together to prevent sexual exploitation and trafficking, we must address racism and the systems and beliefs that allow this crime to continue. I invite you to start by reading books and articles that are being raised up by people of color at this time, listening to, supporting, and working alongside powerful advocates and organizations working for change, and repenting for our sins of complicity. Engage your church and community with the ELCA on [June 17, to commemorate the Emanuel 9](#) who were shot and killed by a white supremacist ELCA member five years ago during a Bible study at the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church. Pray and act for change.

**Dear loving God, help us cast out the disease and sickness of racism so all might live.
Amen.**

¹<https://uroc.umn.edu/sites/uroc.umn.edu/files/EXECUTIVE%20SUMMARY%20Mapping%20the%20Demand.pdf>

²<https://polarisproject.org/2018-us-national-human-trafficking-hotline-statistics/>

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