

Opening Worship – Metro DC Synod Assembly

Saturday, June 18, 2016

“For the Healing of the Nations...”

Portions of the liturgy have been written and hymns selected by the Racial Equity Synod Team.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Please stand as you are able. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

We who believe in the Holy One, in whose image humankind was created;

We who believe in Jesus Christ, who gave his life for the redemption of the earth and its inhabitants;

We who believe in the divine Spirit, who gathers, nourishes, challenges, and equips us for the work to which we have been called;

Gather today in the name of the blessed Trinity + to dedicate ourselves anew to the proclamation of God’s Word in all that we say and do.

Assembly: Amen.

When we were baptized into the body of Christ, our confession of faith began with three renunciations. I ask you again today, do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

Assembly: I renounce them.

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

Assembly: I renounce them.

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

Assembly: I renounce them.

To the spirit of indifference that excuses our ignorance and is insensitive to the cries of anguish that come from the bodies and souls of our brothers and sisters, we say

By all that is holy, be gone.

To the spirit of cowardice that claims us as bystanders, we say

Assembly: By all that is holy, be gone.

To the spirit of falsehood which believes that some people deserve God's love more than others by virtue of their gender, race, religion, or nationality, we say

Assembly: By all that is holy, be gone.

To the spirit of fear that feeds racism and keep us withdrawn from the fight for justice and peace, we say

Assembly: By all that is holy, be gone.

To the spirit of supremacy that denies the existence of white privilege, we say

Assembly: By all that is holy, be gone.

To the spirit of entitlement that spiritually and literally kills people of different colors, religions, and sexual orientation, we say,

Assembly: By all that is holy, be gone.

To the spirit of pride that trusts we have no need to repent, we say

By all that is holy, be gone.