

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To the spirit of fear that feeds racism and keep us withdrawn from the fight for justice and peace, we say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