

Peaceful Presence June 11, 2020
Prayer led by Rev. Dr. Diana Gibson
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Introduction: This prayer draws from much of what we have already heard tonight. Connecting to what Rev. Amy Morgenstern said, and to Chris Lundin's Roman Catholic tradition, the prayer is based on the words of Pope Paul VI, "If you want peace, work for justice. It draws as well from the wisdom Rabbi Amy Eilberg shared from Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel's idea that "in a free society, some are guilty, but all are responsible." Not surprising, it draws on MVPJ's motto, made famous in the words of that Baptist minister, Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr: "A time comes when silence is betrayal, and that time has come for us." The prayer ends with a line from a Poor People's Campaign's litany.

Prayer:

Holy Mysterious One, whom we call by many names, and who Christians serve through the power of the Holy Spirit, hear us as we pray:

Come, Holy Spirit, come! Come as the wind and cleanse. Come as the fire, and burn. Come as the light and reveal.

Convict us, Convert us, Consecrate us.

Convict us:

- for the many times we are silent when we need to speak, when we are passive when we need to act;
- for the ways that we busy ourselves with our privileges, while our siblings with skin tones darker than ours are murdered on our streets and denied rights and dignity in our social systems and structure;
- for our complicity in the racist virus that permeates our land and kills your people.

Convert us:

- to take on our *responsibility as human beings* to stand up and speak out in the face of racial injustice;
- to be sure that this time our commitments be for the long haul, not just while the issue is in the headlines;
- to see your divine image in all humanity, and recognize when one person is trampled, your divine being cries out in pain.

Consecrate us:

- so that we know in our bones that we are all one human race, and when one of us suffers, we all suffer;
- so we grow reflect your divine love and passion;
- so that with every breath we still have, we are empowered by your spirit to declare:
Somebody's hurting our brothers and sisters. It's gone on far too long, and we won't be silent any more.

Amen.