

# Day of Lament, Fasting, and Prayer

**JUNE 8, 2020**



## **Laments**

We lament the pain and anger that has been unleashed with the deaths of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, and too many others.

We lament the evil of racism, that denies we are all created in the image of God and are precious and equal as His standard-bearers.

We lament the reality of racism, which has resulted in inequality and injustice in far too many communities.

We lament the reality that while the ideal in the United States is that all enjoy equal treatment before the law, that ideal has fallen so short of becoming the standard for so many people.

We lament the reality that while all should be treated with dignity and respect by law enforcement, in too many instances people of color—especially African-American men—are subject to violence and even death at the hands of those who have sworn an oath to never betray the public trust.

We lament that in too many instances in history, the Church has failed to understand and empathize with the deep-seated pain, grief, anger, and confusion felt by the African-American community.

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## Prayers

Pray for the families of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, and Breonna Taylor. (Psalm 34:18)

Pray for those who are victims of the rioting and looting. (Psalm 34:18)

Pray for the restoration of peace and public order. (Jeremiah 29:7)

Pray for law enforcement officers who serve and protect all citizens, that they will enforce the law with wisdom and discernment. (Romans 13:1)

Pray for prosecutors to work for truth and justice for every American. (Proverbs 21:15)

Pray for the courts throughout the land to fairly administer justice. (Zechariah 7:9)

Pray for our political leaders, that they will set aside the ideological differences that have so divided our nation and unite to work for the common good. (1 Timothy 2:1-2)

Pray that civil unrest will end, and that we will not revert to “business as usual.” Rather, that we will be part of the solution—working to address injustice and inequality in our country. (Romans 12:18)

Pray that we would actively commit to act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with the Lord. (Micah 6:8)

Pray that with humility we will engage and listen to the people of color in our lives, even if they share feelings that are hard to hear. (James 1:19)

Pray that we will seek to bear the burdens of those in our congregation and community who are victims of injustice, inequality, and poverty. (Galatians 6:2)

Pray for the gospel to go forth in a mighty way so that hearts would be transformed and people saved from sin. (Matthew 24:14)

