

This liturgy was developed for DYA for use during and after a pilgrimage through Durham, focused on stories of racism and the fight for justice.

Order of Preparation

Leader: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Leader: We make our beginning,

All: In the name of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit. Amen

Leader: O Lord, open our hearts.

All: Reveal to us the stories of your people from the past and the present, the places of their pain.

Leader: O Lord, open our minds.

All: Reveal to us the truth of our past and communities, the ways we have hurt each other, the ways that we ignore the voices of the hurting.

Leader: O Lord, open our ears.

All: Help us listen to each other, hear the truth of pain, hope, anger, redemption.

Help us to hear with our hearts, our minds, and our ears.

Help us to move our hands and our feet according to your love and mercy.

Amen.

Song: [The Kingdom of God](#)

Response of Lament

Leader: O Lord, how long shall I cry for help and you will not listen?

All: Or cry to you "Violence!" and you will not save?

Leader: Why do you make me see wrongdoing and look at trouble?

All: Destruction and violence are before me; strife and contention arise.

Leader: The law becomes slack

All: And justice never prevails.

Leader: The wicked surround the righteous

All: Therefore judgment comes forth perverted.

A moment of silence

Leader: Remember this, O Lord,

All: Remember this, O Lord,

Leader: Do not let the downtrodden be put to shame.

All: Do not let the downtrodden be put to shame.

Leader: Rise up, O God.

All: Rise up, O God.

Order of Confession

Leader: In the name of God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Leader: If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

All: But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Confession

Leader: Let us then confess our sins to God:

All: God of mercy, justice and peace, we confess to you that we are unmerciful, unjust, and unpeaceful.

Silence for reflection.

We have sinned against you as individuals in our actions, our words and our thoughts.

Silence for reflection.

We have sinned against you as a community, a society, and a culture that turns from your ways.

Silence for reflection.

We silence the stories that make us uncomfortable and ignore the people who tell them.

Silence for reflection.

We have not loved you with our whole heart.

Silence for reflection.

We do not love all people equal but prioritize those who are like us, agree with us, and make us feel good about ourselves.

Silence for reflection.

We do not deserve your favor, but your punishment, present and eternal.

Silence for reflection.

For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us so that together we may delight in your will and walk in your ways of mercy, justice and peace to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

Absolution

Leader: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all of our sins, as individuals and as a community. To all who believe in Jesus Christ, God gives the power to become the children of God and gives them the Holy Spirit so that we might live as faithful witnesses of God's grace, mercy, justice and peace. May the Lord has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Song: [Holy Spirit, Come to Us](#)

Affirmation

from St. Yared of Ethiopia

Leader: The cross is the way of the lost.

All: The cross is the staff of the lame.

Leader: The cross is the guide of the blind.

All: The cross is the strength of the weak.

Leader: The cross is the hope of the hopeless.

All: The cross is the freedom of the slaves.

Leader: The cross is the water of the seeds.

All: The cross is the consolation of the bonded labourers.

Leader: The cross is the source of those who seek water.

All: The cross is the cloth of the naked.

Leader: The cross is the healing of the broken.

All: The cross is the peace of the church. Amen.