



Moderator responds to violence in Charlottesville, Virginia and Nairobi, Kenya

Our hearts have been broken yet again by the violence and the incitement to violence we have witnessed in the world over the weekend. In Charlottesville, where white supremacists clashed with anti-racist protesters with deadly consequences. In Nairobi, where violence between the Luo and the Kikuyu has produced equally deadly consequences.

At the beginning of the Bible, in Genesis 1, we are taught that all human beings are made in the image of God. At the end of the Bible in the book of Revelation, human beings “from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages,” gather together to bring glory and honour to God who sits on the throne and to Jesus Christ. Between these bookends telling us that human beings of every ethnicity and culture are made in the image of God, James 3:9,10 reminds us we cannot both praise God and curse our fellow human beings who are made in the image of God. We pray for a world where all human beings recognize their fellow human beings as being made in the image of God.

PRAYER:

God who made all humans in your image, we come to you with broken hearts.

We live in a world where human beings curse and disrespect other human beings on the basis of the other's skin colour. We live in a world where human beings attack and commit violence against other human beings on the basis of the other's ethnicity.

We weep over the loss of life that has occurred. We pray for those who have lost loved ones. Bring comfort.

We pray for those who feel fear because of the violence. Bring the peace which passes all understanding.

We pray for those who have learned the violence is the way to deal with racial and ethnic difference. Bring a change of heart by your Holy Spirit.

We celebrate the courage of those who speak and act for peace and reconciliation between ethnicities and races. For as your Son, Jesus, declared, “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called the children of God.”

God of grace, your Son Jesus Christ took into himself the hate and violence of the world, through the work of the cross we pray all human beings will come to recognize their fellow human beings as being made in your image.

We pray these things in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

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