



A Prayer on International Day for the Eradication of Racial Discrimination, March 21

PRAYER:

God, you made all human beings in your image,
we thank you for the diversity of races and ethnicities which make up humanity.

Open our eyes to see in all human beings, regardless of their ethnicity, race, or culture, people who have been made and gifted by you. Make us honest with ourselves that we might recognize our own patterns of racial discrimination. We confess the ways we make assumptions about others on the basis of their race and ethnicities. We confess the ways we subtly, and sometimes not so subtly, privilege certain groups of people over others.

Open our hearts and the hearts of those around us that we might work together to build communities in which people of every tribe and language, of every race and ethnicity, of every nation and people group can find a place where they can live free from discrimination. Give us the courage to speak up for and stand up for any person who is looked down on and called “less than human”. Make us aware of situations when housing and schools, health care and community infra-structure are supported in unequal ways based on racial and ethnic differences among neighbourhoods. And give us the language to name these inequalities, so transformation may come to our communities. Teach us how to build partnerships across the racial divisions which so evident in our community life. Give us sensitivity to the hopes and dreams of people of other races, that we might be a society where people of all races can flourish.

God of grace, you call people from east and west, and from north and south, to your great banquet. May your church be a place where all people, from east and west, from north and south, find welcome and are able to join in the great banquet that you have prepared. Take from the church our personal prejudices, that the church would be a sign of all races working together in equality and common commitment.

These things we pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

—*The Rev. Peter Bush, moderator of the 2017 General Assembly*