





We are a diverse community, joyfully responding to God's love and growing as disciples of Christ by nurturing, teaching, reaching and serving all people.

PUMC Prayer Vigil to End Racism June 4-9, 2020

On the night of May 25 last week, George Floyd, a 46-year-old black man, was arrested and killed by a Minneapolis police officer, who kept his knee on Mr. Floyd's neck for more than 8 minutes despite the fact that the victim was supplicating "I can't breathe". At PUMC, we decided to conduct a special Prayer Vigil of 5 days, invoking the Breath of God to come to our rescue, to help us overcome the long-lasting pain of African Americans, to help us overcome the abuses of the police forces and the pain of racism in general that resides in our country and in the world. We ask the Breath of God to help us all to breathe in these tremendously difficult times we are facing right now. We need healing. As a diverse community, joyfully responding to God's love and growing always more as disciples of Jesus, we, as PUMC, are here also to end racism. We are showing up everywhere helping to transform the world into the Kingdom of God.

Let's address and recognize the pain, let's express it out and allow ourselves to go through the emotions of this painful and grieving time. Let's forgive and overcome all boundaries and finally, let's manifest our common needs, the universal needs we are all seeking since the beginning of times, these needs that bring us together as **one human family, in God.**

We are all one.

I am because you are.

Relationship to others, to nature and to everything around us is what makes us exist.

Let's drop our judgments.

Let's move from a self-centered vision of "I think therefore I am" to an altruistic vision of "we relate therefore we are" in order to invite the Reign of God on Earth.

We are all children of God.

We walk together, hand in hand, against the storms of adversity, towards the same sun, the Spirit of God, which is union and life, like Christ did.

He showed us the way, dying for us.

Let's create and show the real human unity.

Let's move from communitarianism to real community.

Let's reconcile where we all come from with where we all are going to.

Denying our roots is not the solution either, our roots are our uniqueness. We don't want to look all the same, God made us all different.

We believe there is a way out.

Let's use the power of our DIFFERENT roots to elevate the ONE stem, so that the branches, the flowers and the fruits of universal love can finally shine in our lives and in the world.

We, the human family, are this Tree of God.

Deep inside, we all know how to live our uniqueness AND our universality AT THE SAME TIME. This is what real unity through diversity means.

The Spirit of Union, the Holy Spirit, will help us to reach that.

It will help us overcome all deceiving traps of the Spirit of Division.

Christ showed us how to do that.

Let's join him.

The Vigil Prayer started.

Let's end racism, once and for all.
One human family, in God.

Prayer Vigil to End Racism
DAY 1, June 5, 2020
DAY OF RECOGNITION - HEAD

- **Scripture**



John 4:1-15

Jesus Talks With a Samaritan Woman

4 Now Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard that he was gaining and baptizing more disciples than John— ²although in fact it was not Jesus who baptized, but his disciples. ³So he left Judea and went back once more to Galilee.

⁴Now he had to go through Samaria. ⁵So he came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of ground Jacob had given to his son Joseph. ⁶Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about noon.

⁷When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, "Will you give me a drink?" ⁸(His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.)

⁹The Samaritan woman said to him, "You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?" (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans. ^[a])

¹⁰Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water."

¹¹"Sir," the woman said, "you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water? ¹²Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his livestock?"

¹³Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

¹⁵The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water so that I won't get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water."

- **Reflection**

This passage of scriptures starts with the RECOGNITION that there is division. There is pain in separation of the communities (here Jews and Samaritans). There is an apparent impossibility of cohesion and synergy and communication between them. Jesus shows us that it's because we are not seeking the right water. We are seeking the dead water instead of the living water.

Every healing process starts always with a recognition of what is happening. In our endeavor to end racism, let's first get out of denial, observe and accept the reality of the pain we are in. Let's take this day to put the light on what is going on in our country as much as what is going on in ourselves through the lens of our Head.

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- **Prayer and contemplation**

How does racism make me feel?

Where do I see judgment around me?

In which part of my life and with whom do I hold judgment?

Do I judge myself and others?

We invite you to light a candle, take a cross or a bible and go simply in a calm space and start breathing for a few seconds.

Shine the light on a particular issue that you recognize.

Ask God to support you in your pain and towards happiness.

Ask the Holy Spirit to heal you and everyone.

Ask the Son, Christ, to be with us and in us so we can not only believe, not only follow, but abide.

Together we pray.

**Let's end racism, once and for all.
One human family, in God.**

Prayer Vigil to End Racism
DAY 2, June 6, 2020
DAY OF EXPRESSION - HEART

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- **Scripture**

John 4:11

Jesus Talks With a Samaritan Woman

“Sir,” the woman said, “you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water?”



- **Reflection**

We are all in the same situation as the Samaritan Woman. We are powerless and feel discouraged. Let's take a moment to feel those emotions. They are the starting point of a change. They lead us to the next question of asking God: “Where can we get this eternal water?”

Every healing process needs us to let the emotions we are feeling to be expressed; to be expressed in a non-violent way, in a constructive way, without judgment on what we feel. Sadness, anger and all other expressions of frustrations are not bad or good. They are just a vehicle of transformation. They show us there is something to move on from and to go to. They are indicators of change. Let's embrace our feelings and use them as a power of transformation. How do we feel in our body? How do we feel in our heart? How do we feel in our head, the ideas, the thoughts we are having right now? How do we feel in our connection with our soul, with our highest purposes and ideals in life? Let's take this day to put the light on what is going on in our country as much as what is going on in ourselves through the lens of our Heart.

- **Prayer and contemplation**

What does the pain and grief in me feel like?

In which situations of my life have I encountered the same type of feelings?

How can I express it out in a constructive way?

We invite you to light a candle, take a cross or a bible and go simply in a calm space and start breathing for a few seconds.

Shine the light on a particular overwhelming emotion that you feel.

Ask God to support you in your pain and towards happiness.

Ask the Holy Spirit to heal you and everyone.

Ask the Son, Christ, to be with us and in us so we can not only believe, not only follow, but abide.

Together we pray.

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Prayer Vigil to End Racism
DAY 3, June 7, 2020
DAY OF WORSHIP

- **Scripture**

John 1:1-18



The Word Became Flesh

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, 'This was he of whom I said, "He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me."') From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

- **Reflection**

Worship with us on our [Facebook page](#) or [website](#), live at 10am or archived any time.

- **Prayer and contemplation**

How have you experienced Christ's "moving in" toward you?
How have you come to know Christ as you've "moved in" toward others?

Reflect on a time when you were surprised or changed by getting to know more of what life is like for someone else?

We invite you to light a candle, take a cross or a bible and start breathing for a few seconds.

Shine the light on the distances of all sorts that exist between you and some other person or group.

Ask God to support you in your pain and towards happiness.

Ask the Holy Spirit to heal you and everyone.

Ask the Son, Christ, to be with us and in us so we can not only believe, not only follow, but abide.

Together we pray.

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Prayer Vigil to End Racism
DAY 4, June 8, 2020
DAY OF FORGIVENESS - SOUL

- **Scripture**

John 4:13-14

Jesus Talks With a Samaritan Woman

¹³ Jesus answered, “Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”



- **Reflection**

Jesus shows us clearly that there is a way not to be thirsty again. There is a way to end racism and all sort of separateness amongst us humans. The way out is to drink the water of eternal life.

Every healing process brings us to a point where we have to reconcile. We reconcile with the energy of life, of God. For that, we need forgiveness; forgiving ourselves and forgiving others, and everyone we still have to ask for forgiveness or that we have to forgive. Loving ourselves and loving others can't happen without forgiveness. This is the day of the soul, where we can access the living water of eternal life. Let's take this day to put the light on what is going on in our country as much as what is going on in ourselves through the lens of our Soul.

- **Prayer and contemplation**

How can I reach forgiveness and pardon today?

Is there something I can forgive myself about?

Is there someone I can ask for forgiveness or forgive today?

In which areas can I reconcile with myself - body, emotions, thoughts, spirit ?

With whom and what can I reconcile around me and in my daily life?

We invite you to light a candle, take a cross or a bible and go simply in a calm space and start breathing for a few seconds.

Shine the light on a historical wrong regarding racial injustice that causes all of us pain, give it a voice and an ear and then pray for reconciliation.

Ask God to support you in your pain and towards happiness.

Ask the Holy Spirit to heal you and everyone.

Ask the Son, Christ, to be with us and in us so we can not only believe, not only follow, but abide.

Together we pray.

**Let's end racism, once and for all.
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Prayer Vigil to End Racism
DAY 5, June 9, 2020
DAY OF MATURITY - HANDS & FEET

- **Scripture**

John 4:15

Jesus Talks With a Samaritan Woman

¹⁵The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water so that I won’t get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water.”



- **Reflection**

In the end of the healing process, if we don’t want to get ill again, we need to make the change that we want to see in our life. In this scripture passage, we can see that it is important to ask for what we need. The Samaritan woman is asking Jesus to give her the living water and only once she is asking Him, He can give it to her. In this day of Prayer Vigil, we are focusing on our needs, to understand exactly what we are requesting in our lives and for the world. God is hearing us. God will embrace all our needs and requests. By understanding what we really need in order to end racism and to create the real community of all living creatures together, we will be able to receive the right guidance for our Hands and Feet to make it happen.

Recall that Jews and Samaritans were two ethnic-cultural groups who did not mingle with one another. And yet here, they come together through service. Jesus asks, “will you give me a drink?” And African-Americans are asking, “will you let me breathe?” It is through compassionate service for each other that the two communities can become family.

Let’s take this day to put the light on what is going on in our country as much as what is going on in ourselves from the action perspective.

- **Prayer and contemplation**

What do you really need and how can you ask for it to benefit all involved?

What do you/we need to do in order to end racism, racial tensions and racial inequalities?

What new direction can you/we decide to follow and how can we make it happen?

How can you/we make sure to commit to the new resolutions taken?

How do you hold yourself accountable in the long run?

We invite you to light a candle, take a cross or a bible and go simply in a calm space and start breathing for a few seconds.

Shine the light on the things that you need, on the things that you want to change or to be changed. Shine the light on the action you want to take and sustain.

Ask God to support you in your pain and towards happiness.

Ask the Holy Spirit to heal you and everyone.

Ask the Son, Christ, to be with us and in us so we can not only believe, not only follow, but abide.

Together we pray.

We believe there is a way to put the human first and not his/her appearance. There is a way to see love, God and Jesus in each of us and all around us. We pray for not falling into the trap of division, of nurturing separation amongst humans, of playing the game of destruction that darkness wants us to play by forcing us to choose one side of the battle field whereas Jesus taught us that there is a way out of the battle field, a third way, a universal solution, which is the one of reconciliation with God and with one another, the one of the Living Church that is the one human family, where the Holy Spirit is always dwelling, nurturing and bringing us out of division, towards reconciliation and unity, above and beyond all forms. We believe that today is a day when all of humanity will come together, be reconciled and love each other in one universal community of humans and of all living creatures, under the banner of unconditional love and altruism.

**Let's end racism, once and for all.
One human family, in God.**

About this Prayer Vigil and More Resources

PUMC Prayer Vigil to End Racism Schedule:

- Sign up for your daily prayer time [here](#).
- Tuesday, June 4, Kickoff Call. You can find the [recording of this Zoom call here](#). ([Audio only recording here](#).)
- Saturday, June 6, 10-11 a.m., Mid-way Point Zoom Call. [You can join the call here](#).
- Sunday, June 7, 4-6 p.m., Closing Event of Relationships & Faith: Recognizing and Addressing Injustice. [You can join the Zoom call here](#).
- Tuesday, June 9, 5-6 p.m., Closing Event of PUMC Prayer Vigil. Live-stream on our [PUMC Website](#) or on our [PUMC Facebook Page](#) OR meet in person on our PUMC church lawn at the corner of Nassau St. and Vandeventer Ave. in Princeton (masks and 6-foot social distancing required).
- After June 9 - continuing prayer, committing to learning, growing, voting, acting, and advocating to end racism.

Aims of the PUMC Prayer Vigil to End Racism:

- We pray to end: racism, systemic, institutional, individual, and interpersonal
- We pray for transformation of the world & our own community
 - We join in the mysterious movement and transformational grace of God, partnering with God to bring about change.
 - As we connect more deeply with the pain, plight, lives, and deaths of people through prayer, our empathy and compassion deepen, and the Holy Spirit works to “make us one”.
 - We turn our presence and attention to our Universe, World, Country, Region, State, Community, Neighborhood and find new connection, love, and compassion for all.
- We pray for transformation of ourselves as individuals
 - Prayer creates space for the Holy Spirit to reveal in us what we need to see, hear, root out, burn away
 - Prayer creates space for God’s grace to work in us to change us, our perspectives, understanding, priorities, etc.

- While prayer is easy in some ways, it can also be terribly challenging and uncomfortable as it changes us.
- We pray for transformation of our PUMC community
 - Our communal prayer bonds us collectively to our world and our community in new ways, as well as to one another.
 - Our communal prayer reveals ways PUMC is called to change and grow, learn and let go to be a healing agent in our community.
- We pray to discern our next steps in our commitment to end racism
 - Prayer invites us to hear the next invitations and calls from God, both communally and individually.

Prayer Ideas:

- Sign up for a ½-hour slot. It's your time each day
- Pray wherever you are.
- Pray however you want. No need to write or say prayers out loud or publicly unless you want to.
- You are allowed to come pray outside the church. (building is locked). There you will find
 - Prayer pods (hula hoops, set 6-feet apart)
 - Prayer Flags (with instructions)
 - Chalk to create prayers on the sidewalk
- Allow this Prayer Resource to guide you, but set it down if it's not resonating with you. It is not required.
- Check in daily on Facebook where we also hope to share art with you from Art Against Racism
- Try out Silence - just *being* with God and self
- Try out Journaling - writing your prayers or your dialog with God
- Try praying with Art: visio divina
- Try praying with Scripture: lectio divina
- Pray specifically for others: Intercession
- Pray to listen for God's direction: Discernment
- If you get distracted by keeping track of time, set a timer on your phone so you don't have to worry about it.

- It's normal to get distracted by many things during prayer. Do not stress about it (then you're distracted by the distraction!). Just observe it, let all the distraction go, and come back to your prayer.
- Take the opportunity to reflect and observe what happens within you during your prayer time. There may be little to observe, and that's ok. And you may discover the time reveals something about you, about God, about others, etc. Just take note, without judgment.

To go further in your actions:

[Ways to Be in the Struggle Beyond the Streets](#)

[How You Can Be an Ally in the Fight for Racial Justice](#)

To go further in your learning:

[Scaffolded Anti-Racism Resources](#) - Guidance for every stage of the journey

[Anti-racism Resources for White People](#)

[How to Deconstruct Racism One Headline at a Time - TED Talk](#)

[Can Art Amend History? - TED Talk](#)

[Children's Books to Support Conversations on Race and Racism-Resistance](#)

With many thanks to Claudio Da Silva and Theresa Cann who composed most of this resource