

Pax Christi Michigan – 27th Annual State Conference
A PRAYER SERVICE OF THE INCLUSIVE TABLE
AFTERNOON PRAYER SERVICE

Leader 1:

Please stand

Let us turn our hearts now to the call to end racism in our world. As we conclude our day, I ask you to sing together “We Are Called”.

ALL SING: We Are Called

*Come! Live in the light !
Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord!
We are called to be light for the kingdom,
To live in the freedom of the city of God !*

Refrain

***We are called to act with justice, we are called to love tenderly,
We are called to serve one another, to walk humbly with God !***

*Come ! Open your heart !
Show your mercy to all those in fear !
We are called to be hope for the hopeless,
So all hatred and blindness will be no more !*

Refrain

***We are called to act with justice, we are called to love tenderly,
We are called to serve one another, to walk humbly with God !***

*Sing ! Sing a new song !
Sing of that great day when all will be one !
God will reign, and we'll walk with each other
As sisters and brothers united in love !*

Refrain

***We are called to act with justice, we are called to love tenderly,
We are called to serve one another, to walk humbly with God !***

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Leader 2:

Inspired by the call to gather at the Inclusive Table, let us say together the Pledge Against Racism.

ALL:

- Starting today, I commit to educating myself and others about the many differences and cultures in our country and our world. I promise to assume the responsibility to identify and speak out about stereotype or discrimination against different races or groups.
- Not only will I oppose acts of racism and intolerance in all their forms, but I will also examine my own attitudes and behaviors so that I can be an example of harmony to others. In my struggle to be a person of harmony, I know I will need to be a person of courage and peace.

Leader 1:

And so we ask for the strength to build a kingdom of justice and equality.

ALL: Good and Holy One,
We praise and bless you for creating the many people of the earth.
We thank you for joining us together in prayer to you.

Leader 2:

Please Stand

Let us come and follow him, as we listen to the Word of God.

When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit upon his glorious throne, and all the nations will be assembled before him. And he will separate them one from another, as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will place the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

Then the king will say to those on his right, come you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.

Then the righteous will answer him and say, Lord when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? When did we see you ill or in prison, and visit you? And the king will say to them in reply. Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me. (*Matthew 31:40*).

The Word of the Lord.

ALL: Praise To You Lord Jesus Christ !

Leader 1

Our morning prayer service has ended, united in spirit as sisters and brothers around the inclusive table, I invite us to sing together the last verse of "All Are Welcome".

ALL SING:

*Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and visions heard
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed as words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter, prayers of faith and songs of grace.
Let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:*

Refrain: All are welcome, All are welcome, All are welcome in this place.

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End of Morning Prayer Service

References

This prayer service was modified for use from www.racebridges.net/cor/commit_day_pdfs/prayerservice.pdf

Dearborn, Michigan, <http://en.wikipedia.org>

Eck, D. L. *A New Religious America: Managing Religious Diversity in a Democracy: Challenges and Prospects for the 21st Century Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia*

Hildebrand, V., Phenice, L. A., Gray, M. M., Hines, R. P., *Knowing and Serving Diverse Families*

Martin, M. N., *Race and Ethnic Relations; American and Global Perspectives*

Williams, M. E., *Immigration; Opposing Viewpoints*

Forgive us for the times we forget that we belong to one family, with one Father/Mother.
We ask that you would help us seek peace among the nations and among the faiths.
Guide our actions only towards peaceful ends.
We look to you to guide us on the path of peace. Amen.

Leader 2

Please Be Seated

(Distribution of ribbons)

A basket of green lapel ribbons will be passed along each row of seats. The green lapel ribbons symbolize enduring hope for all people who yearn for acceptance. Please take the lapel ribbon home as a memento of our gathering today. As the ribbons are being passed out, please listen as "A Prayer For The World" is read.

A Prayer For the World

Let the rain come and wash away the ancient grudges,
the bitter hatreds held and nurtured over generations.
Let the rain wash away the memory of the hurt, the neglect.
Then let the sun come out and fill the sky with rainbows.
Let the warmth of the sun heal us wherever we are broken.
Let it burn away the fog so that we can see each other clearly.
So that we can see beyond labels, beyond accents, gender or skin color.
Let the warmth and brightness of the sun melt our selfishness.
So that we can share the joys and feel the sorrows of our neighbors.
And let the light of the sun be so strong that we will see all people as our neighbors.
Let the earth, nourished by rain, bring forth flowers to surround us with beauty.
And let the mountains teach our hearts to reach upward to heaven. Amen.

--- *Rabbi Harold S. Kushner*

Leader 1:

Let us all pray together our final prayer:

All: Loving God,
We give thanks for your table of fellowship
That binds us to each other and to you.
It is here we find your promise
of welcome for the stranger
Comfort for the widow and orphan
Food for the hungry,
justice for the poor,
freedom to captives.

Live on in our hearts.
Give us light and grace for the journey.
Until we all gather in your house
At the one banquet table of never-ending feast
Where no one will be left out
And all will have come home.
We pray this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Leader 2:

Please Stand

We have come to the end of our conference, and we are strengthened in spirit to build an inclusive world where all are welcome. Let us end the day by joining together as sisters and brothers and sing verses 1 and 3 of, "We Are Called".

ALL SING: We Are Called

*Come! Live in the light !
Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord !
We are called to be light for the kingdom,
To live in the freedom of the city of God !*

Refrain

*We are called to act with justice, we are called to love tenderly,
We are called to serve one another, to walk humbly with God !*

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Let Us All Go in Peace
Thank you for your presence and your participation

