

**United Methodist Men  
Pray for Peace with Justice**



**A**lmighty and everlasting God:  
We repent for our sins and proclaim Your son, Jesus Christ, as our Lord and Savior.

We are united in the spirit of eternal gratitude and thankfulness for His suffering and we are engaged in a ceaseless celebration of His resurrection.

We embrace Your power, manifesting it in all we say and do, generously sharing Your love and healing with every life that we touch.

Keep us forever faithful, forgiving, and obedient demonstrating our fear and reverence of You in this fellowship.

Protect us and guide us, Oh Lord.

Heal us and redeem us and those we love.

We praise You; we glorify You and we lean into Your word in the name Jesus who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit - now and forevermore.

Amen.

**-Louis Johnson, North Georgia**

**J**esus, You are my Shepherd  
I know I am weak and vulnerable  
As I get older my hearing fades and my sight weakens.  
Sometimes I make poor decisions, even stupid ones.  
But I hear Your voice and I know You hear mine.  
I recognize Your voice when I am still.  
Help me to be quiet and listen.  
Even though I am stubborn, do not let my heart become deadened.  
And do not let my eyes be blinded by self-righteousness or self-interest.  
Keep my ears open and my mouth shut  
So, Your words may provide guidance and comfort.  
Jesus, You are my shepherd.  
Amen.

**-Andrew Kissell, Virginia Beach, Va.**

Loving God hear our prayers this day. Lord, I think You may have noticed, there has been some sinning in our world in recent weeks. But, Lord, we admit these are not just new sins, but, replayed sins that are intertwined in the history of this country. Some people have given up trying to untangle this mess. Give us eyes to see the tangled mess we, who call You Lord, have created. Forgive our blindness, heal those we have injured. Lead us to untangle and set aside the sins of prejudice and racism.

I pray for a new kind of freedom that joyfully dissolves those sins that hold us. Help us eliminate these heart breaking, un-Christian, un-American, un-healthy sins, that are also no longer un-deniable.

I am thankful Lord, even in the midst of heartache and pain, that You have inspired all who are praying across this land, for forgiveness, for strength to accelerate change, that Your color-filled kingdom will come, and that finally Your will be done, in this country and around the world.

Lord protect us, from those who would do us harm. But, at the same time, strengthen us to not lose hope in Your power to bring Your spiritual healing to a weary land. Open our eyes to the many hope-filled things You are doing in all our lives.

In my pain and sorrow, Lord, You force me to remember the words of Pete Seeger, “when will they ever learn, when will they ever learn?” God, descend into our broken hearts and give us a new spirit of change. Teach us Your ways and give us the skill to stop repeating the sins of those who have gone before us. Guide us to become a new community of believers.

Lord with our pain and heart break, this day also gives us hope, that what we may choose to act individually, or we can choose to act collectively. But the choice not to act, not to follow Your leadings, not to follow Your word and Your Spirit, is the sin-filled path we will not accept.

And Jesus, the hardest prayer for me to offer, is this: Teach me again to pray for those who would do harm to anyone of us, create in them and in us a new heart and a new spirit that reflects more brilliantly Your love to all Your children in this damaged world.

In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

**-Gil Hanke, Antioch, Tenn.**

**L**ord Jesus, make us deeply aware of what is happening around and help us to understand the handwriting on the wall. Grant us a heart that appreciates the good but hates the evil.

Lord, help us eliminate racial discrimination. Bind people to embrace love, peace and unity.

Dear Lord, I will never doubt Your tender heart and I will always cling to You because I am one of Your children. Thank You, Lord, for inexhaustible love and mercy for us. This we pray in the name of your son, Jesus, the Christ. Amen.

**-Carlos Manio, Philippines**

**O**h! Gracious Heavenly Father,  
Creator of all people, red and yellow, black, and white;  
all are precious in Your sight.

We are the children of the world.

Thank You, God for your son, Jesus, whose grace and sacrifice assures us we can live with You for eternity. We are sinful but we know You still love us. Help us to repent of our sins and instill in us a heart that loves You and loves others no matter the color of their skin. You are a colorful God and You love all skin colors and so as we become like You let us love all people regardless of skin color. You oh God, look at the color of our hearts and see human hearts that all are the same color. Now fill our hearts with Your spirit and through Your spirit may we be a people of peace, unity and love. Amen.

**-Bill Paxton, Galena, Md.**

**D**ear Lord, You know the conditions of our hearts and actions, and we are all flawed even when we are closest to You and we need constant prayer. I pray Your church will turn to Your Word for wisdom and may Jesus Christ be first in Your Church. John 3:30, "He must increase, but I must decrease." Thank You, God, for Your blessings and may we all ask forgiveness of our sins. Amen.

**-Joel Thomas, Vidalia, Ga.**

**G**od,  
Are You there?  
Injustice, pain, chaos, and fear are heavy today.

Echoes of Your passion and love are seen.

But Your voice is hard to hear in the noise.

I do believe, please help me believe more.

Please help me see more.

Please help me hear and listen more.

While I will never fully understand, help me understand more.

Love more, care more, be more. More like You.

Let Your love reign.

Let the injustice of Your death break our hearts and heal our land.

Let the injustice in our house be broken by Your will and grace.

Let us listen and hear You. Change us to be Yours alone.

Thank You for being there, God. Amen.

**-Steven Scheid, Springfield, Tenn.**



**T**here are days I want to hide from You, O God.  
There is so much suffering around this planet, and I am so comfortable.  
I know You expect more from me, but I make up flimsy excuses for my inaction.  
I'm too old.  
I don't have a position of power.  
I haven't received any clear direction from You.  
It's too hot to leave my air-conditioned home.  
There are others who are more competent.  
Well, You see, there's this COVID-19 . . .  
But, remember, I wrote an article . . .  
Forgive me, Lord, for my profession of faith and my unwillingness to act upon that profession. Amen.  
**-Rev. Rich Peck, Franklin, Tenn.**

**G**ood and gracious God, who loves and delights in all people.  
We stand in awe before You, knowing that each life was wondrously made  
by You.

While at the same time, as I watch the news each night, I find myself asking:  
When did we forget that You called us to love each other as You loved us? When  
did we forget that You called us to act with justice, mercy and compassion?  
Forgive me, when I just stand by and say nothing. Forgive us when we remain  
silent in the face of injustice.

Ezekiel 36:26 reminds us: "I will give You a new heart, and a new spirit I will put  
within You. I will remove the heart of stone from Your flesh and give You a heart  
of flesh." May that be so in my life and in the life of all my brothers and sisters.  
May we realize that differences among cultures and races is a manifestation of  
Your beauty.

May our hearts and minds be open to celebrate the similarities and differences  
among our sisters and brothers.

We place our hopes for racial harmony in our committed action and in Your  
Presence in our community and world.

May all people live in peace!

Amen.

**-Rev. Dr. Rick Vance, Hendersonville, Tenn.**

**G**racious God,  
You are love,  
You are joy,

You are peace,

You are all that we need and all that we desire.

Teach us to love.

Fill us with the joy that comes from obedience to Your divine will,

Grant us Your peace—the peace that passes all understanding,

So we can speak and act justly;

So we can truly see our neighbor;

So we can be instruments of Your peace and

citizens of Your kingdom—on earth as it is in heaven.

Amen.

**-Rev Dr. Tom Albin, Nashville, Tenn.**

**L**ord Jesus Christ, we praise Your Holy Name giving thanks for the privilege of speaking personally to the Creator. Your blood purchased our freedom, freedom from sin and death. Through Your blood we are granted the grace to become adopted into Your kingdom, to live eternally with You.

Father, our work on earth is to be Your face, hands and voice for a hurting world. Fill us with an abundant measure of Your Holy Spirit that as we confess and turn from our personal sin, we might be fruitful in truly loving those around us. In You, through You, for You we seek to engage our brothers and sisters in loving and edifying ways. Bind us one to another through Your Holy Spirit so that our connection will not be based on frail flesh, but of Your Holy Spirit. Together in love we will overcome the darkness of this world shining Your Holy Light that casts away darkness. Amen and Amen.

**-Mark Lubbock, Baton Rouge, La.**

**A**waken me, Lord, from the place of my comfort and take me to that place You, in Your wisdom, would have me dwell. Last night's setting sun has past, and we awaken to this new day - a new place.

Take from me the old habits; remold and remake my actions focused in new directions. From the night that gave me a safe place of restorative sleep, You, Lord, allowed the insanity of my dreams to pass and You renewed me to Your comfort and grace.

In this new day make me into a new image, fitting the image You have for me. Remind me, as You did David and Solomon, that by surrendering to You and Your righteousness, I can give You glory and make a difference.

It is not just in recent history, but the history of humankind, that we have found ways to mess up and hurt all Your creation by enslaving others. In so doing we enslaved ourselves to mediocrity.

May we arrive at a time that we again seek Your forgiveness.

Make us witnesses to Your peace and justice throughout every day. Keep the eyes of our hearts open to all who are suffering from injustice, bias, or whatever suppression pervades. Heal our brokenness. Provide us strength to be persistent in this endeavor.

You have given us Your promise, but we need to hear it once more. Lord we need You now, we needed You then, and we will always need You.

Continue to help us realize that all Your created ones are our neighbors. Move us to embrace each other as brothers and sisters. Help us this day to renew our covenant to cherish what You cherish, and really "do unto others as we would have them do unto us."

In the name of Christ, we commit this to You. Amen.

**-Don Archambeau, Livonia, Mich.**

**O** gracious God, You are the creator of all universe.  
In Your image You created and breathed life into one human race, which is the family of God.

We as brothers and sisters have failed to live in unity with love and compassion for all our family.

We have allowed racial prejudices to influence our actions when dealing with brothers and sisters.

We have allowed barriers to exist and not speak out against injustices that keep some in bondage in Your kingdom.

Your black children originally arrived in America as slaves. This segment of Your family still struggles to overcome obstacles in life due to the color of their skin.

We are all blessed by You sending our Savior, Jesus Christ, to live among us and show us the way to love You with all our heart, mind and soul; to love our neighbors as our selves.

By Your grace we are loved.

By the grace of Jesus, we are all included in Your family.

We are a broken people.

We have hope that You will remove the scales from our eyes to allow us to see the reality of racism and injustice experienced by our siblings of color.

As we live into acknowledging this reality, touch the hearts of all Your children to bring about peace, unity and love, so we, as a healed family, can celebrate the glory of Your Kingdom. Amen.

**-Wally Mills, Raleigh, N.C.**

**G**od, we praise You and love You...  
Thank You for loving us enough to send Your only Son Jesus to die for our sins. A gift that we cannot earn and do not deserve. We pray that every man, woman and child will bow before You and acknowledge You as Lord over every area of their lives this day and every day. Help us to walk in Your perfect will in all that we say and do--that no one would perish but have eternal life with You.

God, we pray for all leaders of the world, that they would acknowledge You as Lord over every area of their lives, that You would use them in mighty ways to correct injustices, to take care of the marginal people and to lead in a way that is pleasing to You.

We pray for forgiveness for all our sins of intolerance and injustice. Help us to be more sensitive to the needs and feeling of our brothers and sisters. Help us to love You, God, with all our heart, mind and soul, and our neighbor as ourselves. Help us to sincerely pray for our enemies and those who disagree with us or who do not look like us.

We pray for this country that You have so richly blessed and that You would correct us, that You would bend us but not break us. You promised in 2 Chronicles 7:14, that if Your people, who are called by Your name, will humble themselves and pray and seek Your face and turn from our wicked ways, then You will hear us from heaven, and forgive us of our sins and heal our land.

We pray that You will use this pandemic to slow us down and show us what is really important. We pray for a cure for COVID-19. We pray that You WILL show us A "new normal." Please continue to guide us and direct us in how You would have us live together on this earth.

Please continue to love us despite our shortcomings...

It is in the mighty Name of Jesus, the Christ that we pray....

Amen, Amen and Amen.

**-Herman Lightsey, South Carolina Conference**

**G**od of grace and God of glory on Your people pour out Your power: the power of peace in our hearts and the power to be peaceful and to be able to receive peace from one another.

The power of healing in our hearts and the power to be healed and the power to receive a prayer of healing from one another;

The power of love in our hearts and the power to be loved and the power to receive love from one another.

Dear God, we ask this prayer for the living of these days. Amen.

**-William Waddell, N.C.**



**F**ather and Savior; For the 79 years that You have given me on this earth, Your teachings have shown me how to be calm, cool-headed and how to be one of Your disciples helping to show others what it is like to live in Your world. Thank You. And in some way, I hope I've made a small dent in another person's life.

In this time, it looks as if that little man in the red suit with all the fire around him is getting the upper hand, but with our faith in You we know this is not true. We pray that You give us the strength to be strong.

We may not agree on everything all of the time and that's what makes this a great place to live, but let us not forget that it makes no difference as to our color, race, gender, what we look like or sometime believe in. We are all equal in Your eyes. For it was You that placed us here to pass on Your teaching and to be good disciples.

Give us guidance in our daily lives, to keep us strong and for us to keep doing Your work in bringing others into the fold that have gone off the path of good. Amen.

**-Don Davis, Morgantown, W.Va.**

**D**ear God,  
Please make us instruments of Your peace so that all will know that we  
are Your disciples by our love for each other. Amen.

**Todd Shupe, Baton Rouge, La.**

**F**ather, thank You for all the blessings and opportunities You bring my way today. Thank You for loving me and choosing me to be Your child and for the grace You gave me when I accepted Your Son as my Lord. Thank You also for the growth that comes from spending time in Your Holy Word as well as with the people You have put in my path of life to help me to grow. Help me, Lord, to always see people the way You see them, to listen to them, to understand their heart and to love them as brothers and sisters. Everyone has a story to tell and many times it is a beautiful story of how You have blessed them and are moving in their lives. At times it is a story of sadness or brokenness where they are trusting in Your ultimate faithfulness. May I rejoice with my brothers and sisters in the happy times and be used by You to help those in the sad times. May I comfort them with the comfort I have received from You. Lord, understanding these trying times is overwhelming for me. With You though, nothing is impossible and that is true even in these days we live in. Help me to see others as You do and wherever possible to make a difference for Your kingdom here on earth,

So please, Lord, be with those who are suffering this Coronavirus, those who are being killed, and the families who suffer and must live with these losses. Wrap Your arms around the families and friends of those lost ones. May they experience Your embrace and love as they go through these times of loss. There are so many problems in this world. I know that the answer to all of this is a loving relationship with You, God, through the sacrifice of Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom You have given us love relationship with You. From the cross, Jesus prayed, "Forgive them Father for they know not what they do," and as his children, we must do likewise. God You have the answers. Please show us the actions we need to take, and may we be obedient to do what You ask of us. May Your will be done always.

In Jesus' name I pray.

Amen.

**Ken Hudgins, Valparaiso, Ind.**

**C**reator God, You know what You've provided me, where I live, who I know and what Your calling is for me on my journey of faith.

Whatever it is that breaks Your heart and brings You pain today, please break my heart in the same way and connect me to that person, group of people who are in need.

I pray for the strength and courage that only You can provide so that my life through this connection reflects grace, forgiveness and encouragement as an agent of healing change brought to life through the power of Your Holy Spirit.

Amen.

**Jim Boesch, Oviedo, Fla.**

**D**ear Lord,  
We ask You to bring us to the table so we might see that we are more alike than we are different. Mend the scars and heal the wounds of racial injustice and reunite our souls. In Jesus name we ask this.  
Amen.

**-Wayne Custer, Bethlehem, W.Va.**

