

JUNETEENTH - A PRAYER GUIDE

Use the following prayer guide as a way to pray for issues of race and justice on Juneteenth (June 19).

Read Genesis 1:26-28

- Praise God as our Creator and Redeemer
- Give thanks that God has created us in His image and after His likeness
- Confess that there are times when we do not acknowledge the image of God in others and see them as valuable

Read Isaiah 1:16-18

- Pray that we would seek justice and do good to people who are marginalized and oppressed
- Ask God to act in our country to bring peace and hope in the midst of this crisis
- Lift up our African-American brothers and sisters asking that God would fill their lives with hope and joy
- Pray for pastors and faith leaders who are serving in African American communities and among other ethnic minorities
- Pray that justice would be done when our criminal justice system has failed to protect people or where justice has been unequally applied
- Pray for our good police officers as they seek to serve and protect in our communities.

Read Psalm 43

- Lament in prayer those who have lost lives and suffered harm that has led to this situation. Pray for the families of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor as they mourn the loss of their loved ones. Weep with those who weep, and cry out to God for comfort.
- Lament in prayer for the story of racism and oppression that is our country's heritage. Ask God to open our eyes to the pain this has caused and to mourn with people who hurt because of this.
- Lament in prayer over the reality that our country has a long struggle with justice for people of other races as well as for the poor, marginalized, and oppressed.
- Lament in prayer for the police who find their jobs so much more difficult in light of these events, and for police lives that have been harmed and lost lives while serving.

Read James 2:8-10

- Pray and seek God's forgiveness for the ways the Christian church has shown favoritism and has participated in racism

- Pray and seek God's forgiveness for our failure to love our neighbor as we love ourselves, and therefore are failing to love God fully
- Pray and seek forgiveness for times the church was silent when it should have had a prophetic voice
- Pray and seek forgiveness for ways that you have and may currently show favoritism.
- Pray that God would do a miraculous work in the church bringing us to true repentance and making the church a Gospel shaped community that will shine the light of the Gospel in our world
- Pray that God would send revival to His church and awakening to our country, and that we would see many come to faith in Jesus during this crisis

Read Micah 6:8

- Pray that we as God's people would do justice in the world
- Pray that we as God's people would love kindness with our neighbors
- Pray that we as God's people would walk humbly with our God

Read Revelation 5:9-14

- Worship Jesus for being worthy to open the seals and for redeeming one new people from every tribe, language, people, and nation
- Pray that God would help the church look now more and more like it will then
- Echo in prayer the praises voiced by the great throng of that day in verses 12-13