

Service of Lament

Compiled by members of the APTS Student Border Delegation
Confession and Prayers of the People written by Miriam Fiorentino

Acknowledgement of the Watershed and Native Territory

We dedicate this service and the work of our hands in the days ahead to the memory of those who have died as a result of unjust immigration policies. Honoring where we stand, we commit ourselves to partnering with our Creator in bringing about the Kingdom of God.

Here we stand in the Nueces - Rio Grande Coastal Basin.

The history of the United States and the history of American Christianity includes the painful history of colonialism. We are settlers on land that does not belong to us. We acknowledge that we are gathered on the homelands of the Coahuiltecan and Carrizo tribes. These are the people who have loved and used this land since time immemorial and continue to do so in the present.

We offer them our gratitude and respect and hope, in solidarity with them to strive for justice for our planet and all people.

Here we stand to worship.

Opening Song: “Oh Lord, hear our prayer” (Taize)

Prayer of Confession

God-dess, Lover of all living beings, we confess we have not loved you with our whole heart, soul, mind, and strength.

We have not loved our neighbor as ourselves.

We have looked upon those who are different than us as other.

We have not answered the cry of those who are hurting.

We have turned our back to those who have asked us for a helping hand.

We have not spoken Truth when words against our siblings have been uttered.

We have kept silent, forgetting that you have asked us to be the Light of the world, a reflection of your beloved community, of your kin-dom.

We have not filled our speech with compassion and conviction of how much you deeply love all of your creation.

We have not sought all means necessary to ensure that all are treated justly through our positions, relationships, privileges, and duties.

We have hated our enemies, forgetting that we ourselves are sinners and also in need of grace.

We have not reached out to build bridges of restoration and justice, doing the arduous work of relationship building for all of our deliverance.

Forgive us we pray, that we might ever so humbly have ears to hear your call- beckoning- voice, hands to comfort the broken-hearted and the lonely, minds to engage and grasp your Love, eyes to see your face among the stranger, feet to walk in your path of service to others, to care deeply for each other as you have so radically welcomed us, to be present with those who are suffering, understanding that our liberation is intrinsically connected to that of others.

In the Name of the Protector, the Redeemer, and the Comforter... Amen.

Pardoning Song: The Peace of the Earth (Guatemalan traditional)

The peace of the earth be with you
The peace of the heavens too
The peace of the rivers be with you
The peace of the oceans too
Deep peace falling over you
God's peace growing in you

La paz de la tierra este contigo
La paz de los cielos tambien
La paz de los rios este contigo
La paz de los mares tambien
La paz profunda cayendo sobre ti
La paz profunda creciendo en ti

Prayer of Illumination

Proclaim the psalm bilingually, line-by-line, beginning in Spanish.

Salmo 121

A las montañas levanto mis ojos;
¿de dónde ha de venir mi ayuda?
Mi ayuda proviene del Señor,
creador del cielo y de la tierra.
No permitirá que tu pie resbale;
jamás duerme el que te cuida.
Jamás duerme ni se adormece el que cuida de Israel.
El Señor es quien te cuida,
el Señor es tu sombra protectora.
De día el sol no te hará daño,
ni la luna de noche.
El Señor te protegerá;
de todo mal protegerá tu vida.
El Señor te cuidará en el hogar
y en el camino,
desde ahora y para siempre.

Psalm 121

I lift up my eyes to the hills—
from where will my help come?
My help comes from the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.
He will not let your foot be moved;
he who keeps you will not slumber.
He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.
The Lord is your keeper;
the Lord is your shade at your right hand.
The sun shall not strike you by day,
nor the moon by night.
The Lord will keep you from all evil;
he will keep your life.
The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in
from this time on and forevermore.

Silence

Song After Silence: “Nada Te Turbe” (Taize)

**Nada te turbe,
Nada te espante,
Quien a Dios tiene,
Nada le falta.
Nada te turbe,
Nada te espante,
Solo Dios basta.**

Un Credo Hispano

**Creemos en Dios Padre Todopoderoso,
creador de los cielos y de la tierra;
creador de los pueblos y las culturas;
creador de los idiomas y de las razas.
Creemos en Jesuscristo, su Hijo, nuestro Señor,
Dios hecho carne en un ser humano para todos los
humanos;
Dios hecho carne en un momento para todas las edades;
Dios hecho carne en una cultura para todas las culturas;
Dios hecho carne en amor y gracia para toda la creación.
Creemos en el Espíritu Santo,
por quien el dios encarnado en Jesuscristo
se hace presente en nuestro pueblo y nuestra cultura;
por quien el Dios Creador de todo cuanto existe
nos da poder para ser nuevas criaturas;
quien con sus infinitos dones, nos hace un solo pueblo:
el cuerpo de Jesucristo.
Creemos en la Iglesia,
que es universal porque es señal del reino venidero;
que es más fiel mientras más se viste de colores;
donde todos los colores pintan un mismo paisaje;
donde todos los idiomas cantan una misma alabanza.
Creemos en el reino venidero, día de la Gran Fiesta,**

**cuando todos los colores de la creación
se unirán en un arco iris de armonía;
cuando todos los pueblos de la tierra
se unirán en un banquete de alegría;
cuando todas las lenguas del universo
se unirán en un coro de alabanza.
Y porque creemos, nos comprometemos
a creer por los que no creen,
a amar por los que no aman,
a soñar por los que no sueñan,
hasta que lo que esperamos se torne realidad.
Amén.**

Prayers of the People

For those who are sick, suffering, lonely, hopeless, that you would heal their wounds, be present in their affliction, knowing you do not abandon those you have created.

Señor, en tu misericordia... *hear our prayer*

For the poor, the hungry, the homeless, may they be fed, housed, seen, heard, and cared for, knowing they are close to your heart. May we be companions in their liberation from the margins.

Señor, en tu misericordia... *hear our prayer*

For those who are oppressed, by circumstances and systems and governments that deny their humanity, those persecuted and in danger of their lives, may today be their day of deliverance.

Señor, en tu misericordia... *hear our prayer*

For the earth, knowing that refugees come not only from places of strife but also from natural disasters and famine, let us take care

of your creation as you have commanded us, understanding that this planet is home to all of us.

Señor, en tu misericordia... *hear our prayer*

For political leaders and all those in positions of power, may they see and feel the consequences of their decision-making, the impact of their policies and rhetoric, and lead with integrity, equity, and care for all people.

Señor, en tu misericordia... *hear our prayer*

For spiritual leaders, may they welcome all into their communities, knowing that your love does not discriminate, may they speak out boldly, prophetically about your beloved community, may they be radical, compassion agents for a more just, loving world and fill it with your exponential love.

Señor, en tu misericordia... *hear our prayer*

For those who profit from wars and prisons, may they be deeply convicted of the anguish and blood on their hands, laying down their swords for plowshares. We deeply beseech you for the end to all wars, and a reign of true peace to come to this world.

Señor, en tu misericordia... *hear our prayer*

For all those connected to this immigration system, from those who create orders to those who follow them, ICE, Border Patrol, give them courage to act, dissent, to treat every person with dignity and respect, to understand their pain and that we are all so deeply connected to each other. For a more humane and loving immigration system where all are welcome. For the end to all borders.

Señor, en tu misericordia... *hear our prayer*

For those who fight for justice, social workers, activists, immigration lawyers, community organizers, all those working to alleviate suffering, give them strength, hope, clarity, wisdom, comfort, and care to continue to do this work, to support all those who come to their doors.

Señor, en tu misericordia... *hear our prayer*

For those along the journey, who hope for a better future, who are fleeing violence, may you protect their coming and going, guide their steps towards safety. Those who are separated from their families, whether by force or by borders, for those who don't know their families whereabouts, may their families be reunited, knowing that separation grieves you.

Señor, en tu misericordia... *hear our prayer*

Those languishing in all prisons, in ICE detention centers, isolation, psych hospitals, may your Spirit fill those spaces, may there be Light in the darkness, and may the gates be open wide so there are no more punitive but rather restorative practices implemented, remembering that you call us to reconciliation and connection.

Señor, en tu misericordia... *hear our prayer*

And now we lift up and add those others dear to us and the requests of our hearts to you... (silence)

Señor, en tu misericordia... *hear our prayer*

Oh Special One, we humbly ask that you would listen to the prayers of your people, knowing that as you watch and care for the sparrow, the least of these, you watch, care, and listen to our

supplications, whether spoken out-loud or in the quiet stillness of the depths of our heart.

In the Name of our Shelter, our Friend, and our Encourager...
Amen.

Eucharist

Closing Song: “Siyahamba” (South African Traditional)

Caminamos en la Luz de Dios
Caminamos en la Luz de Dios
Caminamos en la Luz de Dios
Caminamos en la Luz de Dios

Caminando, vamos, caminando, vamos
Caminamos en la Luz de Dios
Caminando, vamos, caminando, vamos
Caminamos en la Luz de Dios

Cantaremos...

Bailaremos...

Blessing and Charge—Prayer attributed to Msgr. Romero

De vez en cuando, dar un paso atrás nos ayuda
a tomar una perspectiva mejor.

El Reino no sólo está más allá de nuestros esfuerzos,
sino incluso más allá de nuestra visión.

Durante nuestra vida, sólo realizamos una minúscula parte
de esa magnífica empresa que es la obra de Dios.
Nada de lo que hacemos está acabado,
lo que significa que el Reino está siempre ante nosotros.

Ninguna declaración dice todo lo que podría decirse.
Ninguna oración puede expresar plenamente nuestra fe.

Ninguna confesión trae la perfección,
ninguna visita pastoral trae la integridad.

Ningún programa realiza la misión de la Iglesia.
En ningún esquema de metas y objetivos se incluye todo.

Esto es lo que intentamos hacer:
plantamos semillas que un día crecerán;
regamos semillas ya plantadas,
sabiendo que son promesa de futuro.

Sentamos bases que necesitarán un mayor desarrollo.
Los efectos de la levadura que proporcionamos
van más allá de nuestras posibilidades.

No podemos hacerlo todo y, al darnos cuenta de ello, sentimos
una cierta liberación.
Ella nos capacita a hacer algo, y a hacerlo muy bien.

Puede que sea incompleto, pero es un principio,
un paso en el camino,
una ocasión para que entre la gracia del Señor y haga el resto.

Es posible que no veamos nunca los resultados finales,
pero ésa es la diferencia entre el jefe de obras y el albañil.

Somos albañiles, no jefes de obra, ministros, no el Mesías.
Somos profetas de un futuro que no es nuestro. Amén.

Sign of Peace