

A Litany of Lament and Reckoning

Adapted from the writings of Robert P. Jones, Rev. Dr. Yolanda Pierce, and Jesuit Campus Ministry Leaders





We witness that Black Lives UNDENIABLY Matter, and they matter with a particular and unshakeable urgency.

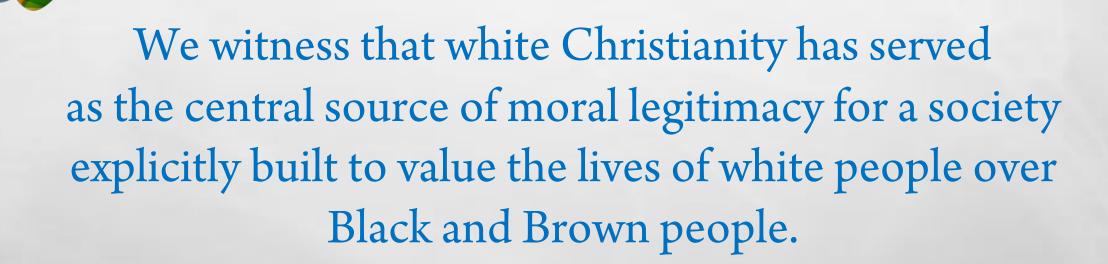


We witness that what is a justice system to some, is a death sentence to others.



We witness that the founding of our nation relied upon the looting of indigenous land, and the looting of African citizens from their own country.

We witness that the hate-crimes and discrimination against Asian Americans since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic reflect a continuing pattern of scapegoating Asian Americans for social, economic and political crises.



We witness that while armed white men were recently allowed to walk into a government building untouched, chemicals and rubber bullets were being launched into crowds of protesters who were pleading that black bodies cease being killed.

We witness how Latina/o/x bodies have been targeted, scrutinized, harassed, apprehended, detained, imprisoned, deported and dehumanized in this country; how families and students are subject to daily forms of intimidation and fear; how children continue to be forcibly separated from their parents; and how workers are forced to work in unsafe conditions for the convenience of others.



We witness a culture that has educated and habituated our primary reaction to black men to be one of fear.

We witness that the version of Christianity that our ancestors built was a cultural force that, by design, protected and propagated white supremacy, and that we have a moral obligation to face the burden of that history and its demand on our present.



We pray and work for reverence and respect for all, especially those most marginalized, recognizing that we are created as sisters, brothers, children of the one God.

We pray and work for radical and lasting change to the pervasive racism of police forces and institutional relationships to policing.

We pray and work for the conversion of our own eyes, ears, hearts and hands so we recognize how we contribute to injustice and to commit ourselves to be agents of positive change.

We pray and work for a world in which true and full racial justice is understood to be everyone's concern.

We pray and work for the disruption and dismantling of structural and institutional systems of oppression.

We pray and work for greater elevation and recognition of the excellence and accomplishments of Black Americans, and Black lives globally.

We pray and work for courageous parents everywhere, as they lovingly guide and raise their children in a reality and climate of inequity and injustice.

We pray and work for our Black and Brown LGBTQI+ family, as we continue to work for the freedom to express gender identities and sexual orientations without fear of violence and victimization.