



# **A Litany of Lament and Reckoning**

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

Turn our hearts to you, O God. With you there is heal - ing, —

5 whole-ness and for - giv - ness, free-dom from fear, last - ing peace.



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

**I will be a witness**



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

**I will be a witness**



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.

**I will be a witness**



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.

**I will be a witness**



We witness that white Christianity has served as the central source of moral legitimacy for a society explicitly built to value the lives of white people over Black and Brown people.

**I will be a witness**



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.

**I will be a witness**





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.

**I will be a witness**



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

**I will be a witness**



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.

**I will be a witness**

Turn our hearts to you, O God. With you there is heal - ing, —

The first system of music consists of two staves. The top staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 2/4 time signature. The bottom staff is in bass clef with the same key signature and time signature. The lyrics are written below the staves, with a long dash at the end of the first line.

5  
whole-ness and for - giv - ness, free-dom from fear, last - ing peace.

The second system of music also consists of two staves. The top staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 2/4 time signature. The bottom staff is in bass clef with the same key signature and time signature. A measure rest '5' is placed above the first measure of the top staff. The lyrics continue from the first system and end with a double bar line.

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.

**I will do the work**



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

**I will do the work**



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.

**I will do the work**



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

**I will do the work**





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

**I will do the work**



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

**I will do the work**



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.

**I will do the work**



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.

**I will do the work**

