



PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: Lord we have not appreciated or respected
the image of God in the members of the human family,
we have not loved others as we have loved ourselves, or
done to others as we would have them do to us.

All: Some have kept silent in the face of injustice and inequality,
while others have sacrificed their lives in fighting injustice and inequity.

Leader: Some enjoy prosperity in the face of the neighbor's needs,
others have been and continue to be exploited and deprived
of the basic necessities for dignified human living.

All: Some families live together for security while others
have been historically and are even today separated
from parents, husbands, wives, children, their homelands and their communities.

Leader: Shame on those who make unjust laws and publish oppressive decrees,
depriving the weakest of God's people of their rights! (Isaiah 10:1-2a)

All: Shame on those who build their houses by unjust means, who obtain luxuries by fraud,
who make their neighbors work without pay,
giving them no wage for their labor! (Jeremiah 22:13).

Leader: Shame on those who turn justice upside down and bring righteousness to the group,
who persecute the guiltless, hold people to ransom, repel the needy at the gage.
(Amos 5:7,12b)

All: I was hungry and you gave me no food; I was thirsty and you gave me no drink;
I was a stranger and you did not welcome me; naked and you did not clothe me;
sick and in prison and you did not visit me.

Leader: Truly, I say to you, as you did it not to the least of these,
you did it to Me. (Matthew 25:42-43,45).

*From: Ecumenical Consultation on Anti-Racism,
March 19-20
(UCC Draft Handbook on Anti-Racism)*