

## A TIME FOR LAMENTATION AND REPENTANCE

On Dec. 17, 2014, the Faculty of Pittsburgh Theological Seminary approved the following statement:

In recognition of the racial injustice still manifest in our nation and our community, and in sorrowful recognition of our complicity in that injustice by our silence, we the faculty of Pittsburgh Theological Seminary offer this prayer of lament and repentance and invite the full Seminary community to join us in prayer and response:

### A TIME FOR LAMENTATION AND REPENTANCE

Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet;  
righteousness and peace will kiss each other.  
Faithfulness will spring up from the ground,  
and righteousness will look down from the sky. (Ps 85: 10-11)

O Lord our God, we long for the time when righteousness and peace will kiss, and when faithfulness will spring up from among your people and your righteousness will cover all the earth. In this Advent season, when we listen to the voice of one who calls us to prepare the way of the Lord through a season of repentance, we are especially drawn to consider our praying in view of the recent events which have brought before us deep and painful divisions over race and justice. John the Baptist's cry was not only for personal repentance, but for the people of God to repent also for the nation, even to repent on behalf of the nation.

Our prayer is a cry from the heart over the divisions which roil us. We lament over the pain among us and around us, the bitter fruit of the history and present experience of abuse and exclusion of others, your children, because of their race. But we offer not only our cry of pain. We offer also, along with many, and on behalf of all, our prayer of repentance for the history and present experience of abuse and exclusion of others, your children, because of their race. When others cried out we were deaf; when others bled before us, we were blind; when others wanted our witness, we sat apart. Even our good intentions and well-meaning efforts have fallen short.

We long for healing within the nation and among its peoples, yet the task feels overwhelming. Nevertheless, we pray that in your good providence and grace, steadfast love and faithfulness will meet, and righteousness and peace will kiss. We ask that faithfulness will rise up among us, and that righteousness will look down upon us. O Lord, do a new thing within and among us that we may make faithful witness that indeed the shalom of the Kingdom of God has drawn near in Jesus Christ your beloved Son, our Savior, in whose blessed and sanctifying name we pray.

Amen.

In response to the racial injustice still manifest in our nation and our community, we will seek in our teaching, learning, worship, and life together as a seminary community to raise awareness of God's central concern for justice (Ps 82) and for the crucial importance of caring for one another and the "least of these" (Matt 25). We intend and hope that all of us – students, staff, and faculty – will go forth as those who will work for justice and seek to participate in God's healing work in our broken communities.

For students, staff, alums, and Board members who would like to join in offering this prayer, please send your name using the form below (scroll below the names). Note that names will be added once per day. Thank you for your patience.

Rebecca DePoe  
Danielle Ramsay  
Lisa L. Thompson  
Jonathan Stewart  
Alvina Smith  
Christopher Brown  
Allan Irizarry-Graves  
D. Mark Blank  
Ryan Lucas  
Laura Bentley  
Dr. James and Joy Durlesser  
Bradley Rito  
Keith McIlwain  
Cynthia Bloise  
Heather Vacek  
Darryl Lockie  
Maggie Smith  
Lee Scott  
Myles W. MacDonald  
Britney Vokish  
Brett Dinger  
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Susan Blank  
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Charles Howell  
Nancy Lowmaster  
Don Dawson  
Anne Malone  
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Michael Gehrling  
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Lori Arnold  
Elaine Loggi  
Carrie Buckner  
Damian Berry  
Bill Saxman  
Anna Parkinson  
Deborah Ackley-Killian  
Jim Downey  
Jake Horner  
KJ Norris  
Richard Wingfield  
Chunky Young  
Gavin Walton  
Shane Siciliano  
Don and LindaJo McKim  
Angela Hancock  
Debbie Smith  
Lisa Franklin-Robinson  
Katie Galicic  
Karl Travis  
Deyja Underwood  
Fred Majahawe  
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Abraham J. Peterson  
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Gina M. Noel-Brown  
Martha Robbins  
Judith E. Tobias  
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Brenda N. Henry  
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Britney Vokish  
Rebecca Cole-Turner

\* FIRST AND LAST NAME:

TITLE:

**SUBMIT**

*\* required*

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**TITLE:**

**SUBMIT**

*\* required*

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