

# Prayers for Racial Justice

## About This Guide

Prayer is a core practice for InterVarsity chapters. We believe that praying in community:

- Creates space to hear from God
- Postures us toward dependency on God
- Forms us as followers of Jesus
- Raises our awareness of the activity of the Holy Spirit around us
- Increases our faith for what God can do
- Aligns us with God's desires
- God responds and intervenes when we pray

Our prayers are not empty words but conversations with the living God who hears and responds. There is power in prayer!

### WHY PRAY ABOUT RACIAL JUSTICE?

In our context as followers of Jesus in North America, issues of racism and injustice are particularly pervasive. Sometimes, the pain and brokenness in the world can feel overwhelming, but many of us don't have the option to keep scrolling. On campus, students and faculty are confronted daily with the realities of racial disparity.

This prayer guide helps communities move from being overwhelmed to experiencing the peace of God. Prayer will shift you from helplessness to hope-filled action and sustain you on the life-long journey of working for justice. This guide will help during times you don't know what to pray or how to pray.

### Ways to use this guide:

- Daily or weekly chapter prayer meetings
- Leadership team formation
- Individual prayer time
- Morning prayer at a conference
- Daily prayer guide for a quarter/semester
- Topical prayer guides as needed

### A NOTE ABOUT THE FORMAT

**Liturgical prayer:** Liturgical prayers follow a set pattern and can be a gift when we don't have the words to pray. They connect us with those who are praying the same prayers across time. This might not be a familiar practice to all, but we encourage you to be open to connecting with God in new ways.

### Pre-written prayers in the topical guides:

These prayers have been written by practitioners who have been praying over these topics for a long time. Their words can expand our understanding and imagination as we seek God for breakthrough.

**Flexible time:** The guides have been designed for 45-minute meetings including a 10-minute buffer. However, if you have more or less time available, you can adjust the time of the personal prayer and/or community prayer times. May the Spirit lead you as you shepherd others into prayer.

🕒 35 min

## Daily Prayer

Maureen L. Huang

As we pursue God's shalom in the area of racial justice, we need God's strength, courage, and power. This work begins in God's presence, seeking direction, wisdom and God's intervention. This daily prayer guide is based on the acronym **ACTS—adoration, confession, thanksgiving, and supplication**. It's a simple, memorable way to structure prayer times and can be utilized with different topics.

In this section, you will find **seven prayer guides**—one for each day of the week. The first six days expand in focus: personal, communal, campus, national, global, and the environment. The last day focuses on rest, a critical component to sustain us on the life-long journey of justice.

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### MONDAY: PERSONAL

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#### 1. Adoration

How have you experienced God's goodness this week? Celebrate God's character through your prayers, worship, or reading Psalms. Praise God for creating you with intentionality and love, including the good and beautiful aspects of your ethnic and cultural backgrounds.

#### 2. Confession

What sins do we need to repent of in our lives? What are lies you have internalized about yourself or your people group? Where have you held onto unforgiveness?

#### 3. Thanksgiving

How have you seen God show up for you? Meditate on God's goodness to you, reflecting on your upbringing, ethnic heritage, family, neighborhood, and formative experiences. Let these reflections overflow in thanks to God.

#### 4. Supplication

Ask God for what you need today. Take a moment to listen and see if there's anything else God might want to give you. Pray over what you heard with a posture of receiving.

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### TUESDAY: COMMUNITY

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#### 1. Adoration

We worship a triune God who has formed us as a people—a community—in Christ. Focus your prayers of adoration on the mystery and beauty of God's character demonstrated by the many parts that make the body of Christ!

#### 2. Confession

What sins do we need to repent of as a community? How has your fellowship or community not been welcoming to others? Confess the barriers to pursuing justice within or outside of the fellowship.

#### 3. Thanksgiving

Thank God for your community! What are the ways you've seen the Holy Spirit growing your fellowship in multiethnicity, justice, and reconciliation?

#### 4. Supplication

Ask God to help your community to grow in mutuality—that you would be a fellowship that shares in one another's joys and pains. Invite God to open the eyes of your community to those who are missing and need God's love.

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## WEDNESDAY: CAMPUS

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### 1. Adoration

Worship God as the Creator of every subject taught on campus! Celebrate the expanse of his knowledge, creativity, and care.

### 2. Confession

Are there people or areas of campus that are overlooked and ignored? Confess ways you and your community have failed to care for campus.

### 3. Thanksgiving

Thank God for the glimpses of God's shalom on campus (consider people, spaces that embody God's shalom, or stories).

### 4. Supplication

Look at a campus map and pray over different sections of campus. Invite God's justice, reconciliation and shalom to cover your campus.

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## THURSDAY: NATIONAL

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### 1. Adoration

Praise the God of justice, whose authority and leadership is trustworthy and leads to life. Praise Jesus who alone is supreme and worthy of our worship and allegiance. God is constant and present through all circumstances.

### 2. Confession

Confess the ways we have put our faith in human leadership rather than God and elevated our national identity above our identity in Christ.

### 3. Thanksgiving

Thank God for intervening in the face of injustice and God's constant presence even when kingdoms rise and fall. Offer prayers of gratitude for those who have committed their lives to working for the common good.

### 4. Supplication

Pray for our nation to seek justice and mercy through its programs and policies. Pray for leaders by name and intercede for any important issues that are currently in the news or that God brings to your attention.

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## FRIDAY: GLOBAL

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### 1. Adoration

Give glory to the Lord who made the whole world and everyone in it. Praise God for the diversity of places, people, food, and cultures throughout the world and the many ways they reflect him.

### 2. Confession

Confess the ways the United States has exploited or overestimated its place as a global power. Repent for the ways these choices have caused harm and cost others socially, economically, and environmentally.

### 3. Thanksgiving

Give thanks for the global body of Christ that is alive and at work throughout the world, seeking shalom for people and place.

### 4. Supplication

Pray for events and issues impacting another country. Intercede for students from one of our IFES movements in another part of the world.

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## SATURDAY: ENVIRONMENT

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### 1. Adoration

Worship Creator God. Give praise to God for our beautiful earth and all creation.

### 2. Confession

Confess the ways humanity has exploited rather than cared for the earth. Repent over our greed that drives hoarding and consumption of our shared resources. Pray over our blindness to the interconnectedness of creation.

### 3. Thanksgiving

Give thanks for prophets who have spoken up for our earth and for people who are actively at work in preserving our planet for future generations (farmers, scientists, activists, etc.).

### 4. Supplication

Intercede for the earth and ask God to help humanity fulfill its role as stewards and caretakers of creation. Pray for any environmental issues your area is facing and the ways they may impact different communities.

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## SUNDAY: REST

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### 1. Adoration

Worship God, who while all powerful, chose to rest. Praise the God of the sabbath, who promises to restore our souls and whose love is not contingent on our productivity.

### 2. Confession

Confess the ways you have avoided or failed to rest. Confess any tendencies towards unhealthy self-reliance, savior-mentality, or treating your body like an exploitable resource.

### 3. Thanksgiving

Express gratitude for God's tenderness and care. Give thanks that Jesus models a way to pursue justice that doesn't require burnout. The Holy Spirit gives all we need to follow the way of shalom.

### 4. Supplication

Pray that God would teach us how resisting a culture of productivity and output through rest is part of our pursuit of justice. Ask God to help the community integrate spiritual formation practices that will sustain the pursuit of justice and reconciliation on campus.

🕒 35 min

## Confession & Repentance

Connie J.G. Anderson

Confession simply means telling the truth about our sin. Repentance flows from confession, where we turn away from thoughts and actions that misalign with the way of Jesus. Scripture shows that confession and repentance:

- Bring us out of hiding and enable us to live openly before God and others (1 John 1:5-9)
- Flow from the confidence that Jesus has already paid for our sins (Prov 28:13)
- Grow us in honesty before others, leading to healing (James 5:16)
- Allow us to experience the joy of our salvation (Ps 32:3-5)

Scripture encourages us to confess not only our personal sins, but our corporate sin as well: Isaiah repented on behalf of the Israelites (Isa 6:5), Jeremiah confessed the sin of his generation and his ancestors (Jer 3:25, 14:7, 20), and Nehemiah's prayer led to corporate repentance (Neh 1:6-9, 8:9-11, 9:1-2).

Corporate sin refers to sin that is committed by a group, organization, or society. It does not negate individual responsibility but highlights the idea that communities and societies can collectively stray from God's will and may need to repent, seek forgiveness, and undergo a process of restoration as a group.

We might avoid confession around race-related issues because in our world, the price for admitting any fault in this area is often brutal. We worry that our most vulnerable confessions will be exploited, or that we will be labeled and shamed.

We haven't always created safe spaces for mutual confession of race-related sins. When we regularly receive God's mercy and grace, we will regularly be able to extend that same mercy and grace to those around us. **We pray that this guide would allow your community to grow as a safe space for honest confession and repentance.**

### EMBODIMENT EXERCISE | 3 min

Begin with two minutes of silence, allowing everyone to settle in. Invite everyone to practice a breath prayer, saying the first line in the minds as they breathe in, and the second line as they breathe out.

[as you inhale] *Grace of God ground me.*  
[as you exhale] *Take my burdens and my sin.*

### OPENING PRAYER (RESPONSIVE) | 1 min

- One* God of justice and mercy,  
give us courage to be honest  
about our sin.
- Many* **Give us grace to have humble  
and contrite hearts.**
- One* We confess that we have not  
loved you with our whole being.  
We have not loved our neighbors  
as ourselves.
- Many* **Forgive us, O God, and cleanse  
us from all unrighteousness.**
- One* Forgive us for judging others,  
misusing power, and for not  
honoring each other as image  
bearers of God.
- Many* **Form us into a community that  
can truly share one another's  
joys and pains.**
- All* **Free us Jesus from guilt, shame,  
and unforgiveness that binds us.  
Transform us, O God, so we may  
love and live as Jesus did.**

### SCRIPTURE READING | 3 min

1 John 1:5-10

*This is the message we have heard from him  
and declare to you: God is light; in him there is  
no darkness at all. If we claim to have fellowship  
with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie  
and do not live out the truth. But if we walk in  
the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship  
with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his  
Son, purifies us from all sin.*

*If we claim to be without sin, we deceive  
ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess  
our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us  
our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. If  
we claim we have not sinned, we make him out  
to be a liar and his word is not in us.*

### INDIVIDUAL REFLECTION | 5 min

*Ask the Holy Spirit to direct your reflection and  
allow emotions to surface. You might want to  
record your thoughts in a journal.*

How have you dismissed or diminished the  
image of God in people nearby or worldwide?  
Where are things not as they're supposed to  
be and you had an active or passive part in  
that brokenness? What biases or stereotypes  
have you, your family, or your people harbored  
against other communities? Confess to God and  
receive his forgiveness.

## COMMUNITY PRAYER | 15 min

We invite you into a time of corporate repentance. Reflect then confess aloud any personal sin or the sins of your people group or community. After each prayer, the community responds “Lord, have mercy.” This might feel vulnerable, so feel free to pray as generically or specifically as you are comfortable.

Examples of corporate confession:

- “God we confess the American church’s complicity in perpetuating injustice, abuse, and violence.” (Lord, have mercy.)
- “God we confess that we have failed to listen to the cries of the vulnerable and hurting.” (Lord, have mercy.)
- “Lord, I confess that my community has harbored hatred against other ethnic and religious groups because of generations of war.” (Lord, have mercy.)
- “God, I confess that as Christians we have too often based our understandings of injustice on political categories of ‘liberal’ or ‘conservative’ instead of your Word.” (Lord, have mercy.)

## A PRAYER FOR THOSE WITH A CONTRITE HEART | 1 min

*One person prays aloud.*

Righteous and holy God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed. We have sinned through what we have said and done, and through what we have left unsaid and undone.

We have not created safe spaces for honest confession. We have clung to images of ourselves and our communities that are not fully honest. We have allowed fear to stop us from following you wholeheartedly in this area.

Lord, we humbly ask that you would shine your light into the places we have tried to hide, knowing that your love cleanses us and brings healing.

Give us ears to hear your voice leading us in our steps of repentance. Give us faith and courage to follow you in saying yes to your call.

Fill us with your Holy Spirit so that we might reap the peaceful fruit of righteousness. Thank you that just as the father ran toward the prodigal son, you run toward those who turn to you.

We pray that you would make us into instruments of your healing in our broken world.

## CLOSING PRAYER

*Pray aloud together.*

**God of mercy,  
You welcome us out of shame and into your presence. Give us grace to be honest and humble before you and others. We ask this through Jesus who died and rose again.  
Amen.**

🕒 35 min

## Forgiveness & Reconciliation

*Jonathan P. Walton*

Theologian Cornelius Plantinga said that sin can be described simply as the way things are not supposed to be. And since we were created for relationship, our sin is not just between us and God. Our words and actions that are misaligned with God's purposes can cause real harm to others, and when hurt occurs, it must be made right.

This reality is embedded in the Lord's prayer: "And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors" (Matt 6:9-13). Hurting others and being hurt by others is a part of living in this world. So too, should be the making of amends.

It's easy to skip the verse that immediately follows the prayer, "For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins" (vv. 14-15). The forgiveness we extend is intertwined with the forgiveness we receive.

Scripture encourages us beyond forgiveness towards reconciliation. **Reconciliation is the Spirit-filled work of repairing what has been broken so God's peace may reign between all relationships.** Jesus forgives those who hung him on the cross (Luke 23:34), and proclaims, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God" (Matt 5:9). Moreover, Hebrews encourages us to "make every effort to live at peace with everyone" (Heb 12:14).

Receiving the abundant, steadfast love of God who is slow to anger, forms us to be more patient, gracious, and loving towards others (Ps 103:8). We point to the risen Jesus when we extend to others what we have received from God. This is not an easy truth. In fact, at times it's incredibly costly and vulnerable.

Being reconciled to God (forgiveness) and seeking shalom with others (reconciliation) can feel overwhelming. Fortunately, it is by God's grace, power, and authority—not ours—that forgiveness, reconciliation and justice is possible and accomplished.



### EMBODIMENT EXERCISE | 3 min

Begin with two minutes of silence, allowing everyone to settle in. Invite everyone to practice a breath prayer, saying the first line in the minds as they breathe in, and the second line as they breathe out.

[as you inhale] *I am made right with God.*

[as you exhale] *Make me right with others.*

### OPENING PRAYER (RESPONSIVE) | 1 min

- One Creator God has forgiven us.  
Many **We are freed to forgive.**
- One Holy God holds nothing  
against us.  
Many **We leave vengeance to him.**
- One Because of Christ, all is right  
between us and God.  
Many **May all be right in between us  
and those who have done harm.**
- All **Yes, may all be right between  
us and those who have done  
harm so that your shalom may  
fill the earth.**

### SCRIPTURE READING | 3 min

Psalm 103:1-12

*Praise the Lord, my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name. Praise the Lord, my soul, and forget not all his benefits—who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion, who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.*

*The Lord works righteousness and justice for all the oppressed. He made known his ways to Moses, his deeds to the people of Israel: The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love. He will not always accuse, nor will he harbor his anger forever; he does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.*

### INDIVIDUAL REFLECTION | 5 min

*Ask the Holy Spirit to direct your reflection and allow emotions to surface. You might want to record your thoughts in a journal.*

Where might you be holding on to unforgiveness? Who do you harbor bitterness or resentment towards? Ask God to bring comfort where you experience pain and for strength to release blame towards people that come to mind. If there any places of unbelief in God's love and forgiveness, ask God to help your unbelief.

### COMMUNITY PRAYER | 15 min

Go back to Psalm 103. Take time to praise God in one-sentence prayers, drawing on God's attributes from the passage. For example:

- "God, I thank you for your mercy which is \_\_\_\_\_."
- "God, I thank you for your justice because \_\_\_\_\_."
- "God, thank you for not treating us according to our sins because \_\_\_\_\_."

### A PRAYER FOR THE PEACEMAKERS | 1 min

*One person prays aloud.*

God, we are sinners,  
but you have made us holy.  
God, we are broken,  
but you have made us whole.  
We have seen you on the mountaintop;  
be with us in the valley below.

We desire to give as you give to us,  
but that Lord is costly and hard,  
and we are but water and dust.  
You, oh God, can raise us up,  
to life and love with you.  
Do it now that we may live,  
in life and love with you.

### CLOSING PRAYER

*Pray aloud together.*

**God who is our shalom,  
who embraced us while we were enemies,  
give us courage and strength to pursue the  
way of peace, through the abundant love and  
power of your Spirit,  
Amen.**

🕒 35 min

## Lament

Jonathan P. Walton

“Jesus wept” is the shortest verse in Scripture (Jn 11:35). Jesus is mourning alongside Mary and Martha over the loss of their brother Lazarus. Jesus loves Lazarus and says he will raise him from the dead. Yet Jesus’ power to resurrect the dead does not prevent him from grieving. He is not dismissive of others’ pain and suffering and he himself does not avoid it. Instead, he embodies the call to mourn with those who mourn (Rom 12:15).

**Lament is the conscious choice to engage sadness, pain, and anger before the Lord.** It is the proper response to the brokenness in the world, even as we hold on to hope. It is not just walking through the valley but being present to brokenness emotionally. Lament is not summoning disingenuous or contrived emotions but a **spiritual practice** that connects us with ourselves, others, and God.

Jesus was willing to travel to Bethany despite the continued threat of being stoned. Jesus choose to risk his life and physically be present. There are a lot of reasons we avoid pain. We might feel powerless, or overwhelmed. The discomfort of not knowing how to respond might distance us from others’ pain. Facing our emotions in their rawest form is vulnerable. But God is with us, and we don’t have to be afraid of being overcome. Because our hope is hidden in Jesus, we can press into pain knowing that God will carry us through.

Followers of Jesus must choose to make the journey to be physically present with grief. Like Jesus, we must mourn with those who mourn and turn our hearts towards—and certainly not away—from the pain of injustice.

We mourn while clinging to the hope of resurrection because sickness, death, and loss is worthy of our time and tears. In Christ, seeds of mourning grow into fruits of comfort and connection, immediately and eternally. Those who weep know that they are not alone.

### EMBODIMENT EXERCISE | 3 min

Begin with two minutes of silence, allowing everyone to settle in. Invite everyone to practice a breath prayer, saying the first line in the minds as they breathe in, and the second line as they breathe out.

[as you inhale] *My heart is heavy.*

[as you exhale] *Jesus be near.*

### OPENING PRAYER (RESPONSIVE) | 1 min

*One* The God of love opens our eyes to see the suffering in our world.

*Many* **And we will see.**

*One* The God of justice opens our ears to hear those who cry out.

*Many* **And we will hear.**

*One* The God of healing opens our hearts to acknowledge and share our pain.

*Many* **And we will bear it together.**

*All* **O God, you walk with us through the darkest valleys. Jesus, you share in our suffering and our grief. By your compassion, grant us what we need: the courage necessary to love boldly, the vulnerability necessary to trust, the submission necessary to heal, the conviction necessary to repent. We belong to you.**

### SCRIPTURE READING | 3 min

John 11:30-36

*Now Jesus had not yet entered the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. When the Jews who had been with Mary in the house, comforting her, noticed how quickly she got up and went out, they followed her, supposing she was going to the tomb to mourn there.*

*When Mary reached the place where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled. "Where have you laid him?" he asked. "Come and see, Lord," they replied. Jesus wept. Then the Jews said, "See how he loved him!"*

### INDIVIDUAL REFLECTION | 5 min

God intended for there to be shalom—peace between all relationships. Ask God to bring to your mind people, places, and situations where things are not as they should be. **Write down three things** God brings to mind in short phrases or sentences.

### COMMUNITY PRAYER | 15 min

One at a time, share one thing on your list. Imagine what it would be like for things to be as God intended in this situation. Pray your hopes aloud.

At the end of your prayer, say “May your kingdom come, and your will be done.” This will be the signal for the next person to pray.

Repeat this in your group until you run out of time or topics.

### A PRAYER FOR THOSE WHO LAMENT INJUSTICE | 1 min

*One person prays aloud.*

God, we prayed for broken hearts,  
And now our hearts are broken.  
We see the lack of love, kindness, and hope.  
It has been replaced with shame, violence,  
And hatred, based on eye shape, body type,  
and skin tone.

Oh Lord, how long will we suffer?  
Perhaps until you call us home.  
Give us strength to shine as lights in darkness,  
Until you call us home.

Son of Man, we need healing.  
Son of David, don't leave us alone.  
Fill us with your Spirit now,  
And make our hearts your home.

### CLOSING PRAYER

*Pray aloud together.*

**You who spoke peace to chaos,  
and created everything that is, was and shall  
be, please return to us beauty and gladness,  
as we bring you our mourning and ashes,  
Amen.**

🕒 35 min

## Revival & Justice

Caroline S. Lancaster

Revival is “a season of breakthroughs in word, deed, and power that ushers in a new normal of kingdom experience and fruitfulness.”<sup>1</sup> A renewed passion for Scripture (word), miraculous demonstrations of the Holy Spirit (power), and the pursuit and fruit of justice (deed) come together in love, awakening us to the presence and activity of God.

Racial injustice and violence are pressing issues in our country. Social stratification is so deeply embedded in our culture that at times we operate with subconscious beliefs around inferiority and superiority. We can internalize lies about ourselves, our communities, and others which distort the truth of God’s good design for all creation.

We need the Holy Spirit to bring awareness and healing to these broken places. We need God to heal our vision so that we may see ourselves and others as people who are valuable because we reflect the image of God. We need Jesus to heal the deep divisions in our country caused by generations of injustice, exploitation, and pain.

Revival in the area of deed is **an outpouring of God’s Spirit that empowers us to love others as God loved us**. This love is not a fluffy love, but a love demonstrated through action and justice. This is a kind of love that is willing to sacrifice comfort, resources, and even our own lives for the sake of the other—even our enemies. It might be hard to imagine “enemies” in a modern sense, but what about those whom you judge or avoid or distance yourself from? Imagine a generation committed to loving across differences—whether racial, socio-economic, gender, or political differences. Imagine a generation committed to uprooting white supremacy on personal, communal, and systemic levels so all of creation can flourish. This is the stuff of revival.

As you pray, let the Holy Spirit expand your collective imagination and stir a longing for revival that overflows in God’s justice and shalom for our campuses, cities, families, and communities.

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<sup>1</sup>James Choung and Ryan Pfeiffer, *Longing for Revival: From Holy Discontent to Breakthrough Faith* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 2020), 17.

### EMBODIMENT EXERCISE | 3 min

Begin with two minutes of silence, allowing everyone to settle in. Invite everyone to practice a breath prayer, saying the first line in the minds as they breathe in, and the second line as they breathe out.

[as you inhale] *Let justice flow.*

[as you exhale] *Let mercy reign.*

### OPENING PRAYER (RESPONSIVE) | 1 min

- One Creator God who gives breath to all creation,  
Many **In you we live, and move, and have our being.**
- One Jesus who knows betrayal, wrongfully murdered though innocent,  
Many **Heal and forgive us for generations of injustice.**
- One Christ to whom alone belongs the supremacy,  
Many **We renounce the allure of power and privilege.**
- All **God who has gone through death to resurrection life, revive us Spirit, we pray!**

### SCRIPTURE READING | 3 min

Ezekiel 37:1-10

*The hand of the Lord was on me, and he brought me out by the Spirit of the Lord and set me in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me back and forth among them, and I saw a great many bones on the floor of the valley, bones that were very dry. He asked me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" I said, "Sovereign Lord, you alone know." Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones and say to them, 'Dry bones, hear the word of the Lord! This is what the Sovereign Lord says to these bones: I will make breath enter you, and you will come to life. I will attach tendons to you and make flesh come upon you and cover you with skin; I will put breath in you, and you will come to life. Then you will know that I am the Lord.'"*

*So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I was prophesying, there was a noise, a rattling sound, and the bones came together, bone to bone. I looked, and tendons and flesh appeared on them and skin covered them, but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath; prophesy, son of man, and say to it, 'This is what the Sovereign Lord says: Come, breath, from the four winds and breathe into these slain, that they may live.'" So I prophesied as he commanded me, and breath entered them; they came to life and stood up on their feet—a vast army.*

### INDIVIDUAL REFLECTION | 5 min

Imagine your campus and the various communities in it. Where does God take you and ask: "Can these bones live?"

What is your response? Talk to God about this and consider how you might be part of ushering in revival.

## COMMUNITY PRAYER | 15 min

Let everyone know you will keep track of time and close the community prayer by reading the written prayer below.

Take turns praying aloud for the Spirit to pour out over the area of campus or community you prayed over individually. What would signs of revival look like over any experiences of brokenness and injustice? As you pray, ask God in faith for those signs to come to pass.

## A PRAYER FOR REVIVAL AND JUSTICE | 2 min

*One person prays aloud.*

God of justice, love, and mercy,  
Give us courage to confront the ways we have upheld injustice by how we rewrite the past, harbor anger and hatred, mock and judge others, remain silent, and center ourselves and our own comfort.

Uproot all forms of oppression and injustice that have made a home in our community and society. We rebuke every sinful expression of nationalism, exploitation, and supremacy. Guard us against the temptation to build new structures of power and exclusion. Wake us up from blind participation in injustice that leads to numbness. Call us back to life, Jesus!

Breathe life over every area of hurt, pain, and betrayal. Breathe life over our weariness and apathy. Remind us that we are people who have already moved from death to life, who know what it means to lay bare our sin and shame and receive the gift of your grace and love.

Form us into a people that love in the face of hatred, pursue peace in the face of violence, and give ourselves to the slow work of justice. Send revival Jesus, and start with us!

## CLOSING PRAYER

*Pray aloud together.*

**God who is resurrection life,  
You put to death the power of sin and  
injustice in your broken body. Uproot the  
racism deeply entrenched in our society.  
Through your Spirit, revive us so we may  
seek shalom.  
Amen.**



## Prayers of the Church

### A FRANCISCAN BENEDICTION

*Original version attributed to  
Sister Ruth Fox, OSB, 1985*

May God bless you with discomfort  
at easy answers, half-truths,  
and superficial relationships,  
so that you may live  
deep within your heart.

May God bless you with anger  
at injustice, oppression,  
and exploitation of people and planet\*,  
so that you may work for  
justice, freedom, and peace.

May God bless you with tears  
to shed for those who suffer pain,  
rejection, hunger, and war,  
so that you may reach out your hand  
to comfort them and to turn their pain to joy.

And may God bless you with enough foolishness  
to believe that you can  
make a difference in the world,  
so that you can do  
what others claim cannot be done:

To bring justice, kindness, and the good  
news of Jesus to every corner of every  
campus and all of creation.<sup>1</sup>  
Amen.

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<sup>1</sup>The phrase "and planet" was added to the second stanza  
and the last stanza was added for InterVarsity's context.

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

*From the Book of Common Prayer, Seabury Press, 1979*

Most merciful God,  
we confess that we have sinned against you  
in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done,  
and by what we have left undone.

We have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.  
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.

For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
have mercy on us and forgive us;  
that we may delight in your will,  
and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your Name.  
Amen.

## THE PRAYER OF ST. FRANCIS

*Author unknown but often attributed to St. Francis of Assisi*

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.  
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;  
Where there is injury, pardon;  
Where there is doubt, faith;  
Where there is despair, hope;  
Where there is darkness, light;  
And where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master,  
Grant that I may not so much seek  
To be consoled as to console;  
To be understood as to understand;  
To be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive;  
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;  
And it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.  
Amen.