



Tuesday, October 18
Mercy Education Conference

Opening Song: Oh How I love Jesus

(verse one)

There is a name I love to hear,
I love to sing its worth;
It sounds like music in my ear,
The sweetest name on earth

(verse two)

It tells me of a Savior's love,
who died to set me free;
it tells me of his precious blood
the sinner's perfect plea.

Refrain:

Oh how I love Jesus,
Oh how I love Jesus,
Oh how I love Jesus,
because he first loved me!

Good and gracious God, you invite us to recognize and reverence your divine image and likeness in our neighbor. Enable us to see the reality of racism and free us to challenge and uproot it from our society. This we pray.

All respond: **AMEN**

Pattern One: Spatial Racism

All respond: **We beg for both forgiveness and conversion and we open our hearts and minds in communal prayer.**

Pattern Two: Institutional Racism

All respond: **We beg for both forgiveness and conversion and we open our hearts and minds in communal prayer.**

Pattern Three: Environmental Racism

All respond: **We beg for both forgiveness and conversion and we open our hearts and minds in communal prayer.**

Pattern Four: Individual Racism

All respond: **We beg for both forgiveness and conversion and we open our hearts and minds in communal prayer.**

Gospel Reading:

MT 22: 34-40 and Luke 10: 25-27

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul and with your entire mind. This is the greatest and first commandment. The second is like it; you shall love your neighbor as yourself. The whole law and the prophets depend on these two great commandments.”

Communal Reflection Questions

1. How can we reach out beyond our level of comfort to meet and learn about others, hear their stories and be open to their full humanity?
2. What kind of projects can we identify that bring together different individuals, schools, parishes, small groups and / or communities to work together on an issue?
3. What questions can we begin to ask and how can we examine the policies of our local, national and international community to make sure they do not discriminate against minorities and others that have not enjoyed full citizenship in some way?
4. How can we bring diversity and respect for others into our prayers, our worship celebrations and our holy days and holidays?

Let us affirm together: (Please join in reading)

- We pledge to examine our own biases and positions of privilege through self-reflection and earnestly work to resolve them.
- We pledge to live by compassion and be consciously inclusive of all individuals.
- We pledge to affirm the value of diversity.
- We pledge to promote understanding, inclusion, and mutual respect, and thus build community within all races, ethnicities and cultures.
- We pledge to transform our institutions into authentically anti-racist and anti-oppressive communities of action.
- We pledge to advocate for justice, demand equal opportunity for all and so help create a beloved community for everyone to share.

Good and Gracious God, who loves and delights in all people, we stand in awe before You, knowing that the spark of life within each person on earth is the spark of your divine life. Differences among cultures and races are multicolored manifestations of Your Light. May our hearts and minds be open to celebrate similarities and differences among our sisters and brothers. We place our hopes for racial harmony in our committed action and in Your Presence in our Neighbor. May all peoples live in Peace. **Amen**

Closing Song: I Will Trust in the Lord

I will trust in the Lord,

I'm going to treat ev'rybody right,

I will trust in the Lord,

I'm going to treat ev'rybody right,

I will trust in the Lord till I die,

I'm going to treat ev'rybody right, till I die.

I will trust in the Lord,

I'm going to treat ev'rybody right,

I will trust in the Lord,

I'm going to treat ev'rybody right,

I will trust in the Lord till I die.

I'm going to treat ev'rybody right, till I die.

