

A Prayer for Juneteenth

Gracious and loving God,

We give you thanks for the witness of those who endured slavery, oppression, and injustice, yet never surrendered their hope in your promise of freedom. On this Juneteenth, we remember with gratitude the day when the news of emancipation finally reached those who had long been denied liberty and dignity.

Grant us the courage to tell the truth about our history, the wisdom to recognize the work that remains before us, and the grace to labor for justice, reconciliation, and peace. Heal the wounds of racism, prejudice, and division that continue to afflict our nation and your Church.

By your Holy Spirit, strengthen us to build the Beloved Community, where every person is honored as your beloved child, and where freedom, equity, and compassion flourish for all.

May we follow the example of Absalom Jones and all who have faithfully proclaimed the Gospel of liberation, standing firm in faith, hope, and love.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, who came to proclaim good news to the poor, release to the captives, and liberty to the oppressed; and who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.