

LITANY AGAINST RACISM

Litany authored by Rev. Dr. Susan K. Smith

Leader: We, Your people, come to You because there is a storm raging in the land.

People: There is a hurricane attacking the land and a hurricane attacking decency and dignity for all people.

Leader: The land cannot absorb the immense amount of water that will fall from the heavens; it is too much. The land will be flooded and the people will hurt.

People: The souls of the people cannot absorb the hurricane of hatred, racism and lawlessness which is coming from government; it is too much. Our souls are being attacked, and we are hurting.

Leader: Racism is not of You or from You. You created us all. There is no master race, and You do not sanction any race to assault another.

People: The souls of the people cannot absorb the hurricane of hatred, racism and lawlessness.

Leader: The people who rule this land say this is a nation of laws, but they ignore and break those laws when they want and twist those laws to make it all right to assault people of color.

People: Lord, hear us!

Leader: Leaders before our current president allowed laws to be broken and looked the other way as “the law” was used as the cover for abject and obvious acts of racial hatred.

People: Lord, hear us!

Leader: As the deer pants for streams of water, so do our souls pant for You, O God. We pant for the strength to fight against racism until we stomp it out.

People: Lord, hear us!

Leader: God, we wonder if You hear us? The prophet Nahum says you are slow to show Your anger but that You are great in power; the prophet says that You will in no way clear the guilty. (Nahum 1:3)

People: Lord, show us the way to stand against racism and lawlessness!

Leader: The prophet says Your way is in the whirlwind and storm; the prophet says You will make full end to Your adversaries. (Nahum 1:3b; 8)

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People: God, show us what to do to end Your adversary, racism.

Leader: We need to hear from You. As African Americans were assaulted by racist lawmakers in the 60s in Alabama and in cities all over this country, brown people are being assaulted now.

People: God, show us what to do to destroy Your adversary, racism.

Leader: Help us not to shake our heads but do nothing; help us to rise up as Your people of many faiths and challenge the hatred and bigotry.

People: In order to save Your children, help us to rise up!

Leader: We have been called for such a time as this. Help us to be steadfast and immovable and determined to eradicate racism and protect each other.

People: Help us to resist the hurricane of hatred coming from government and people in power. Our souls are flooded with pain. We say “enough!”

Leader: No matter the cost, help us to rise up against racism and racist leaders!

ALL: Lord, in Your mercy, hear us and give us the strength to love and to act!

Rev. Dr. Susan K. Smith

Writer, author, musician, pastor, preacher and social justice advocate. She is a graduate of Yale Divinity School and author of “Crazy Faith: Ordinary People; Extraordinary Lives,” which won the 2009 National Best Books Award. Follow Rev. Dr. Susan K. Smith on Twitter:www.twitter.com/cassad