# Prayer and Worship Ideas

# Racial Justice Sunday 2025

## Prepared by Churches Together in Britain and Ireland (full resource: <https://ctbi.org.uk/racial-justice-sunday-9-february-2025/>)

### A Gathering Prayer

#### Based on the ‘Coat of Many Colours’ imagery from the theme this year

God of all people,

You are the one who brought us into being,

Knitting and weaving us together and forming us before we were even born.

You know us, each and every one –

Your dear children, blessed to be bearers of Your image and likeness.

God of all nations,

You stitch and sew this intricate image of You –

Like a garment of many colours, stitched, sewn and hemmed;

Each tone and hue painted with the tender care of You, the Artist,

Our Maker and Creator – clothing us all in Your love and mercy.

May Your dream for all Your dear children come true;

May Your hope for all the earth to be renewed and reconciled be made real;

May Your Kingdom come on this earth in this time, and be established for ever.

We call on You, O God,

That on this Racial Justice Sunday

You would bring together our hopes and fears,

Our prayers and our praise,

And unite them, as we draw closer in communion with You and each other,

For Your glory.

**Amen**

### A Prayer of Confession

Jesus,

You walked beyond borders, healing, caring, showing the way to God.

You spoke with those who were despised by others;

You sat at tables with tax collectors and fishermen,

Loving all who came to eat and to drink and to meet with You.

We confess,

There are times when we choose not to live as You have shown us,

Spurning the way of peace and placing our needs and desires before others.

When we choose not to love as You command us…

*Hold a moment of silence.*

In Your mercy,

**Forgive us, Lord.**

When we exclude others, contrary to how You lived and loved…

*Hold a moment of silence.*

In Your mercy,

**Forgive us, Lord.**

When we refuse to love our neighbour and dishonour our own humanity…

*Hold a moment of silence.*

In Your mercy,

**Forgive us, Lord.**

In Your life – You showed us how to live.

In Your death – You reconciled us to God.

In Your resurrection – You made the way for love to win.

May we know pardon and peace

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

**Amen**

### A Prayer of Response

#### An extract from Pope Francis’ Encyclical ‘Fratelli Tutti’

Come, Holy Spirit, show us Your beauty,

Reflected in all the peoples of the earth,

So that we may discover anew

That all are important and all are necessary,

Different faces of the one humanity

That God so loves.

**Amen**

### A Prayer for the Reading of Scripture

God of yesterday, today and all days, as we hear Your word,

Create in us a new heart – big enough to love regardless of difference;

Create in us a new mind – open enough to understand the severity of the issue

of racism.

Give us ears to hear Your voice in different languages and accents,

Give us eyes to see Your beauty displayed in the diversity and difference in all of

creation.

May Your word fuel us, empower us and enlighten us in the work of justice and

peace,

Now and for evermore as Your Kingdom is made real for all.

Teach us, we pray.

**Amen**

### Prayers for Others – Call and Response

*These are some examples of how you can use a call and response prayer,*

*either written beforehand or used to riff upon within a moment of worship and*

*prayer. The congregation give the prompt and the leader expands upon the*

*idea as they are led, or as they have considered beforehand and written as a*

*litany.*

**We call on the One who walked on water,**

To calm the seas that separate us and to bless every small boat with safety…

**We call on the One who poured wine,**

To fill us for the work ahead, that we may build a Kingdom where all can flourish…

**We call on the One who healed,**

To bind up wounds that would divide us and to loose all that would bind us to sin

and death…

**We call on the One who cried over Lazarus,**

To give us hearts that break like Yours does even now, for the sake of the world

that You love…

**We call on the One who stood silent before His accuser,**

To give us strength to bear witness to the need for justice, and to stand in

solidarity with those who need support, advocacy and justice…

**We call on the One who was pierced for our transgressions,**

*[The leader continues to pray in response…]*

**We call on the One who hung upon the tree,**

*[The leader continues to pray in response…]*

**We call on the One who descended to the depths,**

*[The leader continues to pray in response…]*

**We call on the One who on the third day rose again,**

*[The leader continues to pray in response…]*

**We call upon the One who even now pleads for us,**

*[The leader continues to pray in response…]*

In Your mercy, O God,

**Hear our prayer.**

**Amen**

#### This prayer can easily lead into a reflective piece of music or song, or can

#### crescendo into a song crying out in hope or in praise of the One who answers

#### prayer.

### A Blessing

God who goes before us,

Send us out to do Your work of loving others as we ourselves hope to be loved.

God who is behind us,

Protect us and watch over us as we continue to work for justice and peace.

God who is above us,

May Your will be done on this earth and in all the places we find ourselves.

God who is below us,

Steady our feet as we walk towards justice for all.

**Amen**

### Song Suggestions

* ‘Be Thou My Vision’, Audrey Assad (with lyrics) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Optrm7lF16s>
* ‘Christ, Be Our Light’, Bernadette Farrell (with lyrics) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qibAAo0JiEQ>
* ‘Everything is Yours’, Jake Isaac <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v7DsaBQbR-M>
* ‘God of the Poor (Beauty for Brokenness)’, Graham Kendrick (with lyrics) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MO1G-o7Yj-c>
* ‘This Is Amazing Grace’, Phil Wickham (with lyrics) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rjXjkbODrro>
* ‘With the Lord There is Mercy’, Francesca LaRosa (with lyrics) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OBDmKvRSchA>