*A Liturgy of Reflection for Black History Month*

**Call to Worship**

Spirit of the living God,

**Fall afresh on us!**

Spirit of the living God

**Sanctify this space**.

Spirit of the living God,

**Fill us with light of grace and strength.**

Spirit of the living God,

**Delight our minds, unite our tongues, renew our hearts.**

Spirit of the living God,

**Fall afresh on us!**

Hymn #550 (MBW\*): **To God Be the Glory**

**Litany**

God of all peoples, cultures, languages, history, and geography, we are amazed at the reality that from the very beginning you had humanity on your mind, that long before there were continents, galaxies, seas, oceans, you had humanity on your mind.

**Thank you, Gracious Lord, for including us in your Divine plan.**

God of our weary years, as we reflect during this Black History Month, we pause to remember the various sacrifices of our ancestors who through their struggles have made it possible for us to be where we are today in this 21st century, those upon whose blood, sweat and tears we now stand.

**Thank you, Lord, for their perseverance, persistence, and faith!**

Longsuffering God, we empathize with those who were taken from the home they knew and forced to exist in an unfamiliar social, cultural, and religious environment. We are grateful that even when they were ripped from their mother’s land, placed on slave ships, and transported through the Middle Passage into a life of slavery, you delivered them from bondage and carried them through the civil rights movement.

**Help us to understand that the story of slavery is everyone’s story.**

Creator God, although humanity is different physically, in your wisdom, you have created us in your image with the ability to embrace, love, and serve each other.

**Help us Lord to accept, love, and serve each other as you so loved us.**

Forgiving God, we acknowledge that even though physical slavery has been abolished, it is still evident in our society today through labels placed on some communities and systemic racism. 98% of the world’s wealth is owned by 1% of the people and many communities remain underserved. We pray that you can free our minds and help to us empower each other and accept people with their differences as people of God.

**Forgive us Merciful God and remove prejudices, hatred, resentment, and pride from our hearts and lives.**

Journeying God, you have brought us thus far on the way; and we pray that we may be inspired by the faith and legacy of those who have gone before us. It is our prayer that those who come behind us find us faithful**.**

Suggested Scriptures: Romans 12: 2 and Romans 8:37-39

**Intercessory Prayers**

For the blacks who have struggled for freedom in the Caribbean, Africa, and the Americas.

**We give you thanks**.

For the women and men who have contributed positively to our culture and society through their talents, skills and ideas.

**We give you thanks**.

For Jesus Christ who died on the cross to redeem all humanity and to bring freedom to all who are in any way oppressed.

**We give you thanks.**

Loving God, we remember at this time our sisters and brothers throughout the world who suffer under racist structures. We pray for those who are exploited, manipulated and discriminated against because of the color of their skin. We ask that you would strengthen and empower them to stand together and fight for the freedom which you have given.

God of the oppressed, we call upon you to transform political and social structures which dehumanize your people. May leaders of all countries be guided by your Holy Spirit so that all decisions made may be for the common good and to glorify you.

Liberator God, we lift up before you your people of color everywhere, who have suffered a painful history of slavery. Remove, O God, the scars and mentality of colonialism and imperialism. Release in us the power to fulfill our potential by accepting and appreciating our own. Enable us to stand in solidarity with one another in spite of our linguistic and geographical differences. Give to us, O merciful God, your grace and peace. Help us to find, in and through Christ, our liberation; this we pray through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All: Amen.**

Hymn: **Nobody Knows the Trouble I’ve Seen\*\***

Sources:

\*MBW: Moravian Book of Worship, 1995

Caribbean Moravian Praise Liturgy Book, 2017

\*\*<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nobody_Knows_the_Trouble_I%27ve_Seen>

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