

PAX CHRISTI USA

The Executive Director of Pax Christi wrote:

In the wake of George Floyd's murder and the protests it has inspired over the past week, I'm thinking a lot about this quote from James Baldwin.

"Not everything that is faced can be changed. But nothing can be changed until it is faced."

Racism IS faced everyday by people of color in this country. So the question for someone like me, a white man, is what am I doing to face my own racism and the racism of the country in which I live? That is the question for all white folks; it is the question that can't be avoided or downplayed or treated with caution and tentativeness and put off for another day. The death of George Floyd at the hands of a white police officer demands white folks face it. So does the death of Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, and thousands of deaths that have come before and the everyday threats and humiliations that people of color have to live with because White America can't face its racism. I need to face it. White folks in our movement and in our church need to face it. If our nation is ever going to change the systemic racism that continues to thrive in our institutions and support white supremacy, then white folks need to join with friends, family members, neighbors and colleagues of color and face it without flinching or deflecting.

A Prayer for Dismantling Racism

by the Pax Christi USA Anti-Racism Team

Dear God, in our efforts to dismantle racism, we understand that we struggle not merely against flesh and blood but against powers and principalities -- those institutions and systems that keep racism alive by perpetuating the lie that some members of the family are inferior and others superior.

Create in us a new mind and heart that will enable us to see brothers and sisters in the faces of those divided by racial categories.

Give us the grace and strength to rid ourselves of racial stereotypes that oppress some of us while providing entitlements to others.

Help us to create a Church and nation that embraces the hopes and fears of oppressed People of Color where we live, as well as those around the world.

Heal your family God, and make us one with you, in union with our brother Jesus, and empowered by your Holy Spirit. Amen.

Visit the Pax Christi USA website for additional resources. The section **Resources to "Pray-Study-Act"** contains many articles and suggested actions.