

Opening Prayer

(Adapted from Psalm 139 for *Just Faith: Faith and Racial Equity*)

Reader One:

You have searched me, O Lord.
You know me.
Before a word is on my tongue,
you, Lord, know it completely.
Where could I go to escape your presence?

Reader Two:

Sometimes I hide from you in the darkness.
From you (and from myself) I hide my shame:
My failures.
My pride.
My weakness.
But in you the night shines like the day.
The light of your love
gives me the courage to see myself clearly.

Reader Three:

Examine me, O God! Look at my heart!
Put me to the test and know my anxious thoughts!
Find the darkness in me,
That I might dance in the joy of your light.

All: Amen

Program Goals

Program Goals as Outlined in *Just Faith Ministries Faith and Racial Healing: Embracing Truth, Justice, and Restoration*:

- Learn about the history of racial injustice in the U.S., so that we might better understand and more effectively eradicate modern-day racial injustice
- Learn how faith communities responded to racial injustice in the past, so that we might learn from their mistakes and successes

- Learn from the faith and spiritual wisdom of those who endured injustice and stood for freedom
- Develop practical tools for seeking racial justice in our local communities and our nation

Our Oblate Community Lens for this Study:

- Reflect on our learning through the lens of the *Rule of Benedict*.
St. Benedict calls us to
 - Listen with our hearts
 - Rise up
 - Act justly
 - Speak the truth with candor

I, Too by Langston Hughes

I, too, sing America.

I am the darker brother.
They send me to eat in the kitchen
When company comes,
But I laugh,
And eat well,
And grow strong.

Tomorrow,
I'll be at the table
When company comes.
Nobody'll dare
Say to me,
"Eat in the kitchen,"
Then.

Besides,
They'll see how beautiful I am
And be ashamed—

I, too, am America.

<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/47558/i-too>

Optional Formation

Opportunities Coming Up

- **Optional Oblate Retreat**
 - Saturday prior to our September Oblate meeting
 - A day-long gathering
 - Discuss and reflect on summer reading of *White Fragility*, Robin DiAngelo
 - Large Group Discussions
 - Breakout groups

- **Optional/Not Required Summer Readings for Those Not Planning to Attend the Retreat**
 - *White Fragility*, Robin DiAngelo
 - *I'm Still Here*, Austin Channing Brown

Morgan Freeman speaking John Lewis' last words—

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WE2NaF7uRmU>