

## 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>