



**TENNESSEE-WESTERN KENTUCKY
ANNUAL CONFERENCE**
MORNING PRAYER SERVICE
Wednesday, June 19, 2024
8:45

GATHERING MUSIC

INVITATION TO LEARN THE SONG,
"I See the Love of God in You"

**I see the love of God in you,
the light of Christ comes shining through,
and I am blessed to be with you,
oh holy child of God.**

"I See the Love of God in
You"
Composed by Judy Matthews Tay-
lor. Used with permission.

INVITATION TO PRAYER IN 4 PARTS

PART 1: FAST
A moment of silence.

PART 2: CONFESS (Body, Mind, Spirit, Self, Others)
Theatrical Performance of excerpts from the play
WEUSI

MOMENT OF PRAYER ON BODY IN CONFESSION

Leader: Let us pray in light of Body.
Consider the stories and history of slavery
that come to mind. The lives, suffering, and
deaths. Time focused so much on breaking
and using shame and pain to oppress black
bodies into submission.

Leader: It's up to me to do the work.
People: It's up to me to do the work.
Leader: Did I cause Jesus' suffering?
Did I chain, whip, and enslave African people?
**People: No. But it's up to me to do the work to
make things right through the
righteousness of Christ.**

Leader: Let us pray in light of Mind.
Consider the history of Jim Crow.

Leader: Did I consciously make others second-class citizens to me?

People: No. But I'm sorry, and it's up to me to do the work to make things right through the righteousness of Christ.

Leader: Let's pause for 10 seconds of silent prayer

Leader: Let us pray in light of Spirit.
Consider the history of Red Lining, a practice in this country that prevented and still today impacts our ability to live into the spirit of "Ubuntu" – I am because we are.

Consider your thoughts as you reflect by the Spirit on these next questions.

Did I remember that we were one in the Spirit when I invested in systems built upon the backs of others that fuel my privilege? Or, did I turn a blind eye out of my actions or inactions, centering choices on myself, my home, my family, my job, and my comfort over the community?

Leader: Answer aloud, Yes or No.

People: _____

People: I must advocate for community transformation by the Spirit, say I'm sorry, and it's up to me to do the work to make things right through the righteousness of Christ.

Leader: Let's pause for 10 seconds of silent prayer

MOMENT OF PRAYER ON SELF IN CONFESSION

Leader: Let us pray in light of Self.
Consider the nature of consumer culture. So much in this world is self-centered which is contrary to the history of fighting for justice and equality amidst the Civil Rights Movement, Black consciousness, and Black Lives Matter movements.

Consider your thoughts as you reflect inwardly on this next question.

Did I forget to consider the impact of holding on to my wealth and being overly concerned about my personal purchasing power, desires, and needs?

Leader: Answer aloud, Yes or No.

People: _____

People: It is my responsibility to seek out ways to value others across God's creation so that all know that all are loved. I must advocate for community transformation by the Spirit, say I'm sorry, and it's up to me to do the work to make things right through the righteousness of Christ.

MOMENT OF PRAYER ON OTHERS IN CONFESSION

Leader: Let us pray in light of Others on today, Juneteenth as we remember how important it is to tell others "I see you."

Leader: Consider your thoughts as you reflect outwardly on these next questions.

Did I forget or just not know that this day of Juneteenth is a national holiday, just like Independence Day? Or, did I know and decided that it would be better to celebrate one over the other?

Did I schedule time off, see family, celebrate the independence of July 4, 1776? What about celebrating the independence of enslaved Africans who gained their first taste of freedom June 19, 1865, two and a half years after the proclamation was made? Would I have even acknowledged this independence had I not attended this worship experience?

Leader: As you wrestle in your hearts and minds with thoughts such as these, let us pray.

People: Merciful God, just as was we have not consistently served the least of these, so we seek your help as we confess in prayer. Help us see ways to be more like you as a community of faith. Help us to see the love of God in one another, in our neighbors, and in all of creation.

It is my responsibility to seek out ways to value others across God's creation so that all know that all are loved. I must advocate for community transformation by the Spirit, say I'm sorry, and it's up to me to do the work to make things right through the righteousness of Christ.

PART 3: EXAMINE

Leader: O Lord our God, when we see disparities, help us to seek more than the stories of history, the disparities to be pointed out, the change that needs to happen still. Help us to live into the processes, practices, and celebrations that bring new life.

Today is Juneteenth. Much like when we grieve a lost loved one, so we grieve all that came before, the hurts and pains and losses that made this day possible in its roots even as we feel the love, connection, and community that the celebration of emancipation brings.

Thank you for the gift of celebration, overcoming the past in anticipation of a bright future. May this time of confessional reflection impact how we see ourselves and our future as a conference who seeks to be like Christ in the world.

PART 4: HOLD FAST TO FELLOWSHIP AND COMMUNITY

*SONG, "I See the Love of God in You"

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the light of Christ comes shining through,
and I am blessed to be with you,
oh holy child of God.**

*CLOSING MUSIC

Worship notes:

Worship written and led by Rev. Linda Furtado and the theater companies Dream 7 & Gubasavi Productions, presenting excerpts from WEUSI, an original theater production.