

## Confession and Forgiveness

O God, this week we remember Martin Luther King, Jr., prophet of justice and reconciliation. Today we confess, the sins of racism and economic injustice distort your divine plan for our lives:

You created us in your divine likeness, O God, diverse and beautiful:

In every person, every culture is your image.

**But too often we fail to recognize your image in all:**

**Forgive us.**

You created us in divine freedom, to be free:

In every decision, every choice is your possibility of justice.

**But too often we fail to choose to advocate for your justice for all:**

**Forgive us.**

You created us for divine abundance, to tend and share:

In every garden, every social structure is your seed of community.

**But too often we fail to create that community which includes all and gives to all equal access to your abundant life; we perpetuate systems and policies that privilege some at the expense of others:**

**Forgive us.**

Forgive us:

**Open our eyes to distinguish justice from injustice,**

**Open our hearts to desire justice over injustice,**

**Strengthen our wills to choose justice over injustice,**

**And use us as your instruments to create your beloved community.**

*Words of Assurance:* Hear the good news: God's gift of grace in Jesus Christ forgives us and sets us free to live full human lives in community. We may go forth in hope, with grace to see with new eyes beyond prejudice and fear; to imagine with renewed passion justice and mercy for all, and to create with a new will a community where all are given access to God's abundant life.

**Thanks be to God!**

based on Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7, adapted from a confession written by the Rev. Susan A. Blain