

Prayer for Peace, Hope and Justice

Over the past few weeks we have noted that Jesus – life giver and anti-death-activist laid bare the systems of death in the world.

By the time Home Affairs reopens its Cape Town refugee office it will have taken ten years...

Let us pray,

Just and merciful God – who does not discriminate, have mercy on us who do.

Just and merciful God – who has no favourites, have mercy on us who do.

Just and merciful God – who keeps not record of our nationality, have mercy on us who do.

Just and merciful God – who claim all human beings as beloved children, as family, have mercy on us who do not.

Just and merciful God – who appreciates the priceless wonder of every person, have mercy on us who do not.

Just and merciful God – who knows that we are more alike than different, have mercy on us who do not.

Just and merciful God have mercy on us, for not only do we not believe we are more alike than different, we obsess over the tiniest, and most insignificant and random differences – like the colour of a person's skin or place of birth. And not only do we obsess, we develop entire systems based on these tiny, insignificant and random differences. And these systems are anything but tiny, insignificant and random. They are all pervasive in size – filling every space like air – air that we breathe in without being fully conscious that we are doing so, and making us dependent on the very system that is dividing and diminishing us.

Just and merciful God – when these systems are threatened we develop other systems to defend these systems. Now explicit systems of death are set up to defend these systems of implicit death. To help us swallow the horror of this we make it holy, by falsely believing that these systems of discrimination and favouritism were designed by you and not us and therefore our faith demands we defend them.

Just and merciful God have mercy on us. We have mentioned one such system today, around refugee policy and administrative xenophobia but you know there are countless others. Conscientise us about these. Convict us of where we are complicit. Give us courage to act for change. Amen.

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