Prayers for Peace, Hope and Justice

- Sikawu challenged us to answer the question Who is Jesus to you?
- I know lots about Jesus – Son of God, Messiah, Prince of Peace, The Christ.
- I admired him deeply but could not relate – too high to come by!
- I came to faith via the 12 steps. Egos run riot – we take our natural desires to the extreme until we serve them instead of them serving us.
- I subscribe to CAC and Substack. Thomas Merton recognises a distinction between the Egoic-self and the True-self. (I believed that the idea of salvation was that your dark side is burnt in the flames of hell and you are a new creation.)
- Jeremy Marks "The fierce love of Christ" – not gentle Jesus meek and mild – but an authoritative Jesus. He goes on to describe the process of redemption not as a cutting down and burning of the trash but a redemption of the very gifts that were given before we were born – a refinement of the Egoic self into your True self – placed in you at conception.
- So how do we stand against injustice?
- Paradoxically, we are advised to "be still and know," to look inward – surrender and become willing to be transformed – then Christ in us is greater than any obstacle that may befall us.
- So, Jesus is now my Master, he's my Mentor, he's my Shepherd, he's the Way, the Truth and the Light … he's also my brother, my friend, he's the stranger, the beggar … he's the lover of my soul and my constant companion and he is transforming me, slowly …
- In A.A. we say, "It works **IF** you work it." If you don't – then inevitably you will resort to your egoic nature and self-destruct. The barbed wire is the result of us not abiding. If we want to be effective as individuals and as an ecclesia.

So let us come before The Triune God and be transformed by the power which emanates from the Father, passes through the Christ and is administered by the Holy Spirit:

Incarnate God
Deep cries out to deep
Draw us to you and minister to us.
We thank you for each other
We thank you for the range of gifts you have distributed among us.
We thank you for our location and the many opportunities we have to do justice, love mercy and walk humbly before you God.
Holy Spirit, you are within each of us, you are among us and you labour to form Christ in us.
We surrender.
Redeem us.
Quench our thirst with new wine.
Blow away the cobwebs that linger in the gloom of our complacence and breathe afresh on us.
For we are your church and we need your power in us. Amen.