

A Litany for the Third Sunday of Advent 2014

God of Advent, we are at a time of darkness specifically in the United States of America.

We call the names of Trayvon Martin, Michael Brown, Tamir Rice, Eric Garner, victims of injustice, along with many other Black females and males.

God of Advent, our systems of criminal justice have failed us, brought trauma into the lives of families, and caused people to protest the undervaluing of Black lives.

We stand in solidarity with our sisters and brothers, proclaiming “Black Lives Matter.”

God of Advent, as we prepare to celebrate the arrival of the One who brings Salvation, show us our responsibility as those who have accepted the Good News.

Prepare our hearts for the coming of the One who will be our Light at all times.

God of Advent, make the spirit of your light shine in us so that we can be bearers of your Light in this place of darkness and empower our voices to cry out that Black Lives Matter in these times of grave injustices.

Through the voices of the prophets, through the witness of John the Baptizer as a voice crying in the wilderness, and through God’s Son Jesus Christ, the Light to the world, we hear you calling us, God of Advent.

God of Advent, thank you for providing in the midst of our journey, a light for our paths of protest and witness that **Black Lives Do Indeed Matter!**

Strengthen our resolve to not only say that Black Life matters, but to live as witnesses of the value of all of life.

God of Advent, Pour your Holy Spirit on us as you did so long ago, So that we may be bearers of your good news to those who are oppressed.

Anoint us with your spirit of hope so that we may heal the broken hearted. Put your spirit of justice in our hearts so that we may declare liberty to the captives. Bring forth your love so that we may pardon the prisoners.

God of Advent, Make this be the day of the Lord when all who mourn are comforted. Make this be the day when those who are grieving are strengthened. Make this be the day when those who are in despair rise from their ashes. Make this be the day where your glory is shown all around.

May there never be again a time of shock and mourning over the death of one of your children through acts of violence and a criminal justice system that undervalues Black life.

God of Advent, help us to be witnesses to the hope, peace, joy, and love you bring at Christmas as we proclaim over and over again:

Black lives matter. Black innocent lives matter. Black criminals’ lives matter. Black Men lives matter. Black women lives matter. No more killing. ALL Black lives matter.