

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Where do we start? I am frustrated, worried and deeply depressed about the current state of our world, and, I am sure everyone at First Baptist Church feels the same way.

Loving Father, again, where do we start?

There is so much chaos that surrounds us.

Strong-arm dictators around the globe are depriving citizens of their basic human rights, people are starving and dying in the streets, and being killed at random. And for what? The colour of their skin, their religious beliefs, their political leanings?

City police forces have become so militarized that ordinary citizens are terrified of their so-called protectors.

Entrenched and systemic racism in the United States is tearing the country apart, dividing it into hostile factions that refuse to find common ground. Bearing the brunt of this are our Black sisters and brothers who are being killed because they "look suspicious."

And the Covid-19 virus has put the world on hold, destroying economies and killing hundreds of thousands of people.

Frustrated, we ask Loving Lord, where are you in our time of need? Perhaps the better question is WHERE ARE WE?

God guide us through these terrible times. Give us the strength, discipline and courage to oppose those who rely and thrive on ignorance, fear and hate.

It has to stop now. With your grace and strength, Almighty God, give your children the power to expose Jesus's love, peace and generosity to the world.

Help us to stand up to evil in every form so it can be exposed to your loving light.

We seek justice for those who have been deprived of it, and for those who have perpetuated this chronic and habitual evil against others.

Most of our leaders, dare we say, Great Creator, have failed us.

Clear their minds of politics, give them clarity and a sense of purpose, and push them to take action for the people who elected them. If they refuse, help us in our quest to find the kind of leadership we so desperately seek.

The time has come for colossal change in our world, our city and our communities.

Perhaps, if we follow the lead of Jesus, who first preached to small groups of people, we might find the right direction.

Perhaps we can start small in our communities: Invite our neighbours over for dinner; let our kids play with their kids. Again, small gestures.

Volunteer at community clubs, donate time and money to homeless organizations or other places where help is needed.

Live by example, as Jesus did. Be kind, patient and graceful in the same ways the Prince of Peace did during his lifetime.

Jesus, this humble Son of God, started small and he built the path to heaven for those who followed his example.

We can do that – be like him.

And let us not forget those who suffer every day – the depressed, the unemployed, the homeless, the sick and needy, the ones who have fallen between the cracks – bring them peace, happiness, healing and the love of Christ.

Please Jesus, hear our prayers and our needs.

For now – more than ever – we need you and your unconditional love for all your children.

In Jesus' name, amen.

~Written by Warren Tasker