

God of freedom and justice, you brought your people out of bondage and have called us to live as instruments of your liberating love. As we mark Emancipation Sunday, we lift our prayers to you for the Church, the nation, and all your children saying, "Liberating God," and with your response being, "*hear our prayer.*"

For the Church in Canada and across the world, that we may be a voice for truth and reconciliation, a place of refuge for the marginalized, and a faithful witness against racism and injustice in all its forms.

Liberating God, *hear our prayer.*

For our bishops, clergy, and all leaders in the Church, that they may guide your people with courage, humility, and a deep commitment to dismantling colonial and racist legacies within and beyond the Church.

Liberating God, *hear our prayer.*

For the government and people of Canada, that we may confront the truth of our history, including the enslavement and oppression of African and Indigenous peoples, and work toward a just and inclusive future for all.

Liberating God, *hear our prayer.*

For lawmakers and civic leaders across this land, that they may enact policies of equity, reparation, and reconciliation, particularly for Black, Indigenous, and racialized communities.

Liberating God, *hear our prayer.*

For descendants of enslaved Africans in Canada, and for all members of the African diaspora, that their stories may be honoured, their contributions celebrated, and their lives filled with justice and joy.

Liberating God, *hear our prayer.*

For all who suffer under the weight of racism, poverty, or systemic inequality in our society, that they may find hope, allies, and the strength to persevere. Liberating God, *hear our prayer.*

For the sick everywhere, especially in communities where access to care is limited or outcomes are unjustly unequal. We remember especially *Beulah, Rob, Andrea, Heather, Mary Louise, Hadley, Nikki, Marian, Ken, John, Peter, Leontine, Cede-Anne, Anne, Paul, Norm, Shaun, Dianne, Bellen, the courageous firefighters and all those displaced by the wild fires.* May they receive healing, comfort, and dignity in body, mind, and spirit. Liberating God, *hear our prayer.*

For the departed[, especially N.]. For the ancestors and all who have gone before us in the long road to justice, those who resisted slavery, fought for civil rights, and built communities of faith and resistance. May we walk in their courage. Liberating God, *hear our prayer.*

Liberating God, you raised Jesus Christ to free us from sin, fear, and oppression. Fill us with your Holy Spirit that we may live as your liberated people, seeking justice, loving mercy, and walking humbly with you. **Amen.**