

ROBERTS WESLEYAN COLLEGE
September 21-26, 2020

STAY-AT- HOME-COMING

Soul Care Service Liturgy Guided Prayer and Reflection

Lord, we invite Your presence to come upon us now and transform our minds, our hearts, our wills to reflect your own more purely.

Lord hear our prayer.

Help us, in this moment, to surrender our need to take care of others to the point of neglecting the care of our own souls.

Lord hear our prayer.

Reveal to us the places in our hearts where we resist you, consciously and unconsciously.

Lord hear our prayer.

Prepare us to banish that which blocks your Spirit from pervading our hearts, that we may have unbroken communion with you and be fit to commune with one another in Christlike fellowship.

Lord hear our prayer.

Lamentation

We grieve for those whose lives have been lost through, violence, lynching, and neglect.

Lord have mercy

We grieve because hatred is strong and pervasive.

Lord have mercy

We grieve for the ignorance that has caused widespread disunity in our nation and within the body of Christ.

Lord have mercy.

We grieve for the times we have been blind and deaf to your Spirit.

Lord have mercy.

We grieve for good intentions marred by ill-conceived practices.

Lord have mercy.

We grieve for the dissonance between the declaration of equality and opportunity and the lived realities of inequality and oppression in our country.

Lord have mercy.

We grieve for the dehumanizing of those made in your image and likeness, because of difference in opinion, conviction and culture.

Lord have mercy.

We grieve for the host of persons who are driven by the force of fear.

Lord have mercy.

Repentance

O Lord, we are a people in need of your salvation. We are frail and prone to disobedience and selfishness. We have become enthralled with our own cherished ways of life and our limited perspectives, unchecked habits, and unevaluated biases. We have made these into idols.

Lord forgive us.

For turning blind eyes to injustices we have observed,

Lord forgive us.

For hardening our hearts when faced with dissonance,

Lord forgive us.

For giving up when the work to which you have called us is yet undone,

Lord forgive us.

For indulging unhealthy cynicism and skepticism,

Lord forgive us.

For nurturing stereotypes, jumping to conclusions, and embracing half truths,

Lord forgive us.

For our weariness turned to apathy,

Lord forgive us.

For casting blame at others instead of examining and repenting for our own shortcomings and sins,

Lord forgive us.

For preferring to be right rather than to be truth-filled,
Lord forgive us.

For insisting on our own rights and privileges at the expense of others,
Lord forgive us.

For our failure to spend ourselves on behalf of those in need,
Lord forgive us.

For excusing our hesitancy to lift our voices and hands on behalf of the disenfranchised,
Lord forgive us.

Supplication

Lord make us instruments of healing
Come, Holy Spirit

Move us from peacekeeping to peacemaking
Come, Holy Spirit

Grant us courage to make ourselves vulnerable before you and one another, that the walls
preventing our unity in Christ will crumble
Come, Holy Spirit

Clarify our calling as servants and under-shepherds of the God who is Love
Come, Holy Spirit

Help us to be slow to speak defensively,
Come, Holy Spirit

Help us to be patient to listen, hear, comprehend and understand,
Come, Holy Spirit

Prepare us to empathize with one another, rather than insulate ourselves from another's
experience
Come, Holy Spirit

Let us be discontent in merely addressing symptoms rather than rooting out and battling the
causes of evil
Come, Holy Spirit

Help us fully imbibe our identity as your image-bearers, and the salt and light of a dark and desperate world

Come, Holy Spirit

Let us agree with St. Francis in seeking not to be so eager to be understood as to understand, to be heard as much as to hear, to be loved as much as to love

Come, Holy Spirit

Spark us, Lord to put our values and your Word into practice

Come, Holy Spirit

Sensitize us to the presence and work of the Holy Spirit for a place and a time such as this that we may recognize and join with abandon the building of Your kingdom on earth

Come, Holy Spirit

Let us become channels of your justice and peace, breaking the dams of dissension, divisiveness, and oppression.

Come, Holy Spirit

Teach us to live above the fear that cripples, distorts, and enslaves.

Come, Holy Spirit

Let us be wary of the dangers of false dichotomies of right-wing and left-wing, of black agendas and white agendas, of insiders and outsiders, of "us" and "them," and choose instead to engage in dialogue that seeks to uplift the wellbeing of one another, understand one another more fully, and collaborate creatively, respectfully, and patiently in the face of disagreement, misunderstanding, and injustice

Come, Holy Spirit

May your perfect love break forth in, through, and all around us that all fear be banished except the fear of You, which opens the gates of wisdom.

Come, Holy Spirit
