**Prayer of Confession**

*Written by Rev. Erica Cooper of Plymouth Church in Brooklyn, NY*

O God of Perfect Justice,

We have failed you as your people. We have turned away from the calling of your Spirit to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly. We have failed to love you with our whole hearts, and to love our neighbors as ourselves.

We confess our sins of active disobedience, but also confess our sins of inaction and complicity -

We have been complicit in the sin of slavery…

              When we purchased items made by forced labor.

              When we invest in unethical, inhumane companies.

When we look the other way when women and children are being sold for sex in our own back yard.

We have been complicit in greed…

              When we worry more about our stock portfolio than the minimum wage.

              When we spend more money on haircuts and highlights than we spend on the hungry.

              When we are more concerned with maintaining our lifestyle than saving others’ lives.

We have been complicit in racism...

              When we have said phrases like “All Lives Matter” or “I Do Not See Color.”

              When we avoid the topic of race because it is “too political.”

              When we reflexively condemn rioting without first listening to the pain      behind the rage.

              When we send our own children to the most expensive schools, while black and brown children inherit the dregs of a broken, segregated education system.

              When we allow people of color to be unjustly imprisoned, abused and murdered and do not act.

For these grave sins, O Lord, forgive us.

Send us your Holy Spirit to be a refining fire for our souls. Ignite our hearts to pursue your vision for our world, and embolden our bodies to risk our own privileged prosperity for the sake of those who we have overstepped and overlooked.

Amen.