

Christian Prayer




by Rev. Brian D. McLaren (brianmclaren.net)

Living God, when you were born among us through your holy Son, Jesus,
We had no room for you.
We sent you to the stable.
When you spoke to us on hillsides and on beaches, in towns and homes,
And even in the Temple,
We argued with you and misunderstood you in a hundred different ways.
Sometimes we said you had a demon,
Or we called you a companion of sinners.
When you were arrested,
Like Peter we pulled out a sword,
As if the justice of God could be accomplished through human violence.
When you were led away,
With the disciples we abandoned you.
And when you were tortured,
We protected ourselves.

In the centuries since your night of torture,
We have too often been more closely aligned with the torturers
Than with you.
Sometimes in your own name we tortured those we labelled
Heretics.
Even now, we too often vocally or tacitly approve
Torture of those deemed enemies,
Even though you called us to love our enemies,
And to treat others as we would be treated.

Heal us, Lord.
Just as you taught us to see your own image
In the hungry, naked, imprisoned, and lone,
Help us to see your image in those who are tortured.
And let us stand with you so that neither they nor we
Are further dehumanized
Through the tragic disregard of your image
In every human being.
Amen.
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