**Prayers of the People for June 21**

*with prayers for those martyred at Mother Emanuel AME Church*

*Celebrant:* In the midst of the storm, Jesus cried out, “Peace! Be Still! As we are tossed about in the storms of life, we pray to the Lord of Life to give us this peace beyond understanding, saying “Lord have mercy.”

*Reader:*  We pray for Mother Emanuel Church in Charleston as its members gather today in grief. We pray for all the congregations of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, giving thanks for their witness and faithfulness. We pray for your whole church, that we may speak against the sin of racism even as we follow the faithful example of the families of those killed this week as they offered forgiveness in the face of hate. We pray to the Lord,
*People:* **Lord have mercy.**

*Reader:*  We pray for this nation and its leaders that we may confront our history of oppression and our ongoing injustice. Give us the courage to break down the walls which divide us and bring your perfect justice to all people. We pray to the Lord,

*People:* **Lord have mercy.**

 *Reader:*  We pray for the peoples of the world divided by misunderstanding, fear, and hate, that every system of oppression may be brought down, the lowly lifted up and the hungry filled with good things. We pray to the Lord,

*People:* **Lord have mercy.**

 *Reader:* We pray for this community (town, county, etc.) and all who live in it, that we may love one another as you love us and make that love known, standing together against evil in our midst, and speaking your love to hate, knowing that love always wins. We pray to the Lord,

*People:* **Lord have mercy.**

*Reader:* We pray for those who have murdered others out of fear and hatred that they may find repentance and forgiveness that comes from your alone. We remember the dying, the sick, the prisoners, the hungry, the homeless, and all in need or trouble, praying that you will visit them with your healing presence. We pray to the Lord,

*People:* **Lord have mercy.**

*Reader:* We pray for the Rev. Clementa Pinckney, Tywanza Sanders, Cynthia Hurd, the Rev. Sharonda Coleman-Singleton, Myra Thompson, Ethel Lance, the Rev. Daniel Simmons, the Rev. DePayne Middleton-Doctor, and Susie Jackson, and all who mourn for them. We remember also all the victims of hate crimes, injustice, and oppression; and for all the departed. We pray to the Lord,

*People:* **Lord have mercy.**

*Celebrant:* Just and merciful God, who stilled the wind with a word and silenced the sea with a rebuke; speak your peace that surpasses understanding into the storms of hatred and violence that swirl throughout our land that your love and justice may be known and that all your children may all be one; through him who is one with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**