

In early 2015, Baltimore was the site of violent protests after the several deaths of African Americans by Caucasian police.

A Prayer for Baltimore

Dear God, you command us in the book of Isaiah to "learn to do good, seek justice, correct oppression, bring justice to the fatherless, plead the widow's case."

Today, Lord, we confess that instead of following your word, we have allowed our greed and fear of strangers to create a world where the few are living very large at the expense of the many.

Today dear Lord on the streets of Baltimore and on streets across this land, people are crying out for justice, for an end to decades of living in the straitjackets of poverty, injustice and oppression.

We pray for our souls as well.

Help us to become full time, every day outlets for your love and justice.

Help us to see your light in all people....

We pray for the souls of the families who are trapped in Baltimore's poor communities, some of the poorest in the country, where low tax revenue means less money for schools, which means poor education, which leads to few or no good jobs, which leads to alternative and often illegal ways to put food on the table, which leads to prison, which leads to broken homes, which begins the cycle of desperation all over again.

So today dear God we cry out for justice to roil down like a mighty stream.

(ruling elder James Parks at Trinity PC, Baltimore)

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