

Prayer – Candle for Peace, Hope & Justice: 2016 February, 21

Jesus you spent much of your public life in trouble. In trouble because you stood in solidarity with the marginalised and vulnerable – those treated as less-than. In trouble with the people who defended the status quo because they benefitted from the privilege and power that came with it. Give us your courage to do the same. Give us your peace of heart when how we live disturbs the peace.

Jesus we remember that what put people in a rage against you was each time you wanted to include the outsider. Each time you wanted to make the circle bigger. Each time you mentioned the ones who were not present. Each time you crossed over to the other side to touch, enjoy, welcome and unite.

Jesus we remember when you lost your temper in the temple. When you were angry that people were being excluded and exploited and you would have none of it. You spoke of the temple as a place for all and you were determined to turn over the tables until all were welcome.

Forgive us for not being enraged at the continued exclusion and exploitation of people. And forgive us for being angry at the anger of those who are enraged. And forgive us that when we are actually ever angry it is usually to protest a grievance committed against ourselves and not the vulnerability of others and even then our anger spills over into destructive behaviour.

We pray for this land O Lord, that is the most unequal in the world – which means it is the least Christian in the world – and we pray that you fill us with anger at injustice even as you fill us with mercy in the way we express that anger. Fill us with imagination to protest in ways that reveal the injustice without perpetuating it. Help us to channel our anger in ways that facilitate transformation and healing as it stands firm against that which is not of you.

Give us courage to be bold.

Give us humility to listen.

Give us faith to persevere.

Give us wisdom to break deadlocks.

Give us patience and urgency at the same time.

Amen.