



THE COVENTRY LITANY OF RECONCILIATION

english / xhosa

Provost Richard Howard put the words "FATHER FORGIVE" on the wall behind the charred cross in the ruins of the destroyed cathedral in 1948, not "Father forgive Them", because we all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. (Rom 3,23)

These words moved generations of people and are prayed in the Litany of Reconciliation every Friday at noon outside in the ruins and on many other places around the world.

The Litany of Reconciliation, based on the seven cardinal sins, was written in 1958 by Canon Joseph Poole, the first Precentor of the new Cathedral. It is a universal and timeless confession of humanity's failings, but it evokes us to approach these sins and weaknesses in the forgiveness of God's love.

*Bonke bonile; bayalabalaba kubuqaqawuli
ababulungiselelwe nguThixo.*

Intiyo eyahlula isizwe kwesinye isizwe, uhlanga
kolunye uhlanga, iqela kwelinye iqela,

Bawo, xolela.

Iminqweno engendawo yabantu nezizwe
befuna ukufumana izinto ezingezozabo.

Bawo, xolela.

Ukubawa okuxhaphaza umsebenzi wezandla
zabantu kuwushiye umhlaba udlakadlaka,

Bawo, xolela.

Umona xa sibona intlalo-ntle nolonwabo
lwabanye,

Bawo, xolela.

Ukubafulethela kwethu amabanjwa
nabangenamakhaya neembacu,

Bawo, xolela.

Inkanuko eyonakalisa imizimba
yamadoda nabafazi nabantwana,

Bawo, xolela.

Ikratshi elisenza sizithembe ngokwethu
endaweni yokuthemba uThixo,

Bawo, xolela.

*Yenzelanani ububele, nixolelane,
kwanjengokuba naye uThixo wanixolelayo
ngoKrestu.*

*All have sinned and fallen short of the glory
of God.*

The hatred which divides nation from
nation, race from race, class from class,

Father, forgive.

The covetous desires of people and
nations to possess what is not their own,

Father, forgive.

The greed which exploits the work of
human hands and lays waste the earth,

Father, forgive.

Our envy of the welfare and happiness
of others,

Father, forgive.

Our indifference to the plight of the
imprisoned, the homeless, the refugee,

Father, forgive.

The lust which dishonours the bodies of
men, women and children,

Father, forgive.

The pride which leads us to trust in
ourselves and not in God,

Father, forgive.

*Be kind to one another, tender hearted,
forgiving one another, as God in Christ
forgave you.*