***Black Lives Matter Immersion Series Elements***

by Dr. Mary Kay Totty (unless otherwise noted)

***Opening Hymn W&S 3152 “Welcome”***

*Please sing verses 1 & 2 from the book and the following verse as verse 3*

**3. Let’s work to-ge-ther for the day**

**When Black Lives Mat-ter, too.**

**Cre-ating Jus-tice all a-round**

**For each and ev’ry one.**

**We’ll o-ver-come dis-par-ity**

**So e-qual-it-y may thrive.** *Refrain*

-*MKT 2015*

***Responsive Prayer of Confession***

**Leader:** Let us not rush to the language of healing, before understanding the fullness of the injury and the depth of the wound.

**People:** **Let us not rush to offer a band-aid, when the gaping wound requires surgery and complete reconstruction.**

L: Let us not value property over people; let us not protect material objects while human lives hang in the balance.

**P: Let us not value a false peace over a righteous justice.**

L: Let us mourn black and brown men and women, those killed extrajudicially every 28 hours.

**P: Let us lament the loss of a teenager, dead at the hands of a police officer who described him as a demon.**

L: Let us weep at a criminal justice system, which is neither blind nor just.

**P: Let us call for the mourning men and the wailing women, those willing to rend their garments of privilege and ease, and sit in the ashes of this nation’s original sin.**

L: Let us be silent when we don't know what to say.

**P: Let us be humble and listen to the pain, rage and grief pouring from the lips of our neighbors and friends.**

L: Let us decrease, so that our brothers and sisters who live on the underside of history may increase.

**P: Let us pray with our eyes open and our feet firmly planted on the ground**

L: Let us listen to the shattering glass and let us smell the purifying fires, for it is the language of the unheard.

**ALL: God, in your mercy …**

**Show me my own complicity in injustice.**

**Convict me for my indifference.**

**Forgive me when I have remained silent.**

**Equip me with a zeal for righteousness.**

**Never let me grow accustomed or acclimated to unrighteousness.**

**AMEN.**

© 2014 Yolanda Pierce <http://yolandapierce.blogspot.com/2014/11/>

a-litany-for-those-who-arent-ready-for.html

***Sending Forth***

Go forth into this world with your heart wide open to recognize the wonder and beauty of each person you meet.

**We go ready to accept the wholeness of each person -- color, size, language, gender expression, sexuality, and all other wondrous forms of diversity.**

Go forth prepared to recognize your own privilege and then to leverage it to dismantle racism.

**We go prepared to do the hard work of dismantling racism. We will not give up. We will make mistakes. We will listen to people of color.**

Go forth and remember, "Black Lives Matter."

**Black Lives Matter!**

*-MKT 2015*