## International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia

### Prayer of Confession

*Based on Acts 7:55–60; 1 Peter 2:2–10*

God,

we attempt to live lives of good thoughts and intentions.

We attempt to always love each other, as you have loved us.

Although good and well meaning,

our thoughts are not always harmless and

our intentions are not always blameless.

Good intentions do not always lead to good actions—we know this.

Too easily our thoughts and intentions (be they good or bad) turn to stones:

stones of fear and doubt;

stones of privilege and entitlement;

stones of contempt and hate.

Too easily these stones become:

negative stereotypes and inflexible ideologies;

homophobia and transphobia;

systemic oppression and discrimination;

and acts of prejudice.

Too easily these stones become weapons,

acts of violence that:

belittle, condemn, hurt, and kill.

Christ, forgive us,

do not hold these stones that we cast against us:

for these are not the stones we wish to build our church on;

for these are not the stones we wish to carry;

these stones are our burdens and our sin that we seek forgiveness for;

these are the stones that we need help to name and reject.

The harder part is to turn our good thoughts and intentions into living stones:

stones of faith, hope, and love

that build up the whole body of Christ;

stones of fortitude and strength

that provide refuge to the persecuted;

stones of justice and mercy

that will become the building stones of our church.

It is harder to lay a stone than it is to cast one—we know this.

Christ, forgive us,

do not hold these living stones that we neglect against us:

for we hope to build a church where all human beings are celebrated as persons

made in the image of God,

regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity;

for we hope to nurture disciples who will advocate for the human and civil rights of all people (*name communities/individuals of the LGBTTQI being persecuted*)*;*

and we hope to train leaders who are sensitive to the complex realities and experiences of people.

Christ, forgive us for all the times we go against your will and hide behind our good intentions.

And help us to better discern your will,

to reject what you would have us reject

and to nurture what you would have us build up.

Amen.

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