

Rabbi Laurie Zimmerman

Opening Prayer Before Presentation by Rev. Everett Mitchell

Hosted by Congregation Shaarei Shamayim, First Unitarian Society and James Reeb Unitarian

February 9, 2016

Source of Life, we call to you in anger that
Our criminal justice system is biased, broken, and immoral.
No wonder.

We are a nation built on slavery,
A nation plagued by racial inequity,
A nation unwilling to confront police violence, racial profiling, for-profit prisons, and zero-tolerance policies.

Source of Life, we call to you in shame that
Dane County has the worst racial disparities of any county in this country
Measured in unemployment, education, arrest, and incarceration rates.
That 74 percent of black children live in poverty right here in Madison.

Source of Life, help us to look at our own community
With wide open eyes
And help us to listen
With wide open hearts and wide open minds
To the cries of voiceless
To the cries of the vulnerable
To the cries of the disenfranchised.

Source of Life, help us to take risks in the name of justice
To love our neighbors as ourselves,
To raise our voices,
To combat prejudice, inequity, and oppression
To speak with love and compassion,
To act with strength, determination, and power,
So that justice will roll down like waters
And righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

And let us say, Amen.