

## **A Litany for Repenting and Repairing a Legacy of Torture** by Rev. Ken Sehested

One: Our hearts sag with sorrow when the history of torture is unveiled.

All: Such truthfulness comes at a cost. But worthy is the truth.

One: What good can come from such vile remembrance? Can we not safely and silently dispose of such memory?

All: No, not safely. God still hears. The roots are deep. The seeds are dormant. The brutal harvest continues.

One: How then can we live with such terrible knowledge?

All: We can live because the truth unknots the cords of hatred. But first, in light of the horrific evidence of our actions, a NO to torture has to be spoken with clarity, a renunciation has to be made. In light of the truth of our past and present acceptance of torture, we must vow to restore human dignity.

One: Then let us proceed. Shall we walk together in repenting and repairing our legacy of torture?

All: Yes, we will walk together.

All: With the encouragement of many, we renounce the habits of tyranny, intimidation and torture and we shall instruct our nation to also renounce. With the encouragement of many, we renounce our silence and complicity and we shall instruct our nation to also renounce.

Healer of hearts and nations, bear witness to these promises. Confirm our repentance. Grant bold resolve from hearts humbled by Your caress. As we are endeared to You, so make us endearing to each other. Limb by limb may the healing begin, in us according to your mercy.

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