

[Timestamp 0:05]

Leader: Jesus, here we are. Here we are, Lord Jesus.

Jesus, here we are at this special gathering in which we unite brothers and sisters from many places under the motto "*Praying with Venezuela.*" Welcome, everyone.

Singing:

*"Today we are here, men and women.
We come from everywhere, where hope is alive.
We are the people of God, proclaiming and defending life.
We have come this far, and we continue.
And we greet each other,
let us join your journey and mine in an embrace.
We are the people of God, proclaiming and defending life.
Let us all sing, let us sing.
With your voice and mine,
let us say with the drums that we believe in joy.
We are the people of God, proclaiming and defending life."*

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[Timestamp 2:35]

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Leader: The Tower of Babel used the option of disaggregating peoples and nations as an alternative to the single voice of the imperial city.

Scripture – Tower of Babel [Genesis 11:1–9]:

"Now the whole earth had one language and the same words... Then the Lord said, 'Come, let us go down, and confuse their language there, so that they will not understand one another's speech.' So the Lord scattered them abroad from there over the face of all the earth, and they left off building the city. Therefore it was called Babel, because there the Lord confused the language of all the earth."

Leader: But today, the Holy Spirit of Pentecost reunites the diversity of peoples and inspires participation and peace within plurality.

Scripture – Pentecost [Acts 2:1–13]:

"When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting... All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability... each one heard them speaking in the native language of each."

Community – [Acts 10:34]:

"Then Peter began to speak to them: 'I truly understand that God shows no partiality.'"

Leader – [Song of Songs 1:6a]:

“Do not gaze at me because I am dark, because the sun has gazed on me.”

She said this because she was impacted by racism, the enemy of peace and equality among peoples. Why is the word “black” associated with negativity, trauma, exclusion, and racism? Why do we assimilate the colonial slave mentality more than the perspective of unity and equality among all of God’s Creation?

Community – [Acts 10:34]:

“Then Peter began to speak to them: ‘I truly understand that God shows no partiality.’”

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[Timestamp 4:48]

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Unity in Diversity [1 Corinthians 12:12–27]:

“For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ... Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.”

Jesus’ Prayer for Unity [John 17:21–23]:

“That they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.”

Unity with Purpose: Living Together in Harmony [Psalm 133:1]:

“How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!”

Song:

“Give us more wisdom as we listen to your Word, which guides us, a light on our journey. Give us more wisdom, give us more faithfulness.”

[Timestamp 7:09]

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[Timestamp 9:52]

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Prayer for Venezuela:

Merciful God of the poor, God of Life, God of Peace with Justice and Dignity, we thank you for the power of your Holy Spirit, the Comforter who accompanies us and fills us with courage, who teaches us and reminds us of all things, who impels us in the midst of harsh realities to bear

witness to the Risen Christ and proclaim with historic force Peace with Justice and Hope in solidarity for the suffering world.

We pray with Venezuela and for Venezuela. Renew us in the strength of your Spirit, so that we may continue to serve and accompany our impoverished, afflicted, disoriented, and dispersed Venezuelan people.

And so that we can:

- Learn to work for unity amidst rich diversity and differences.
- Save our beloved Venezuelan land from aggression, siege, threat, and looting it suffers.
- Cover it with beautiful and fragrant blossoms of productivity and solidarity of hope.

All: Amen.

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[Timestamp 12:47]

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Closing Blessing:

May God's blessing be with you until the end.

May God give you strength and hope so that you may continue on the path of goodness, in obedience and love.

Building peace, radiating its light,

Let us go with God,

Let us go with his blessing. Amen.