

# A PRAYER FOR JUNETEENTH

Written By ASJP Team Member Miranda Melone



Holy Liberator,

You know pain.  
You have witnessed  
The murder of your Son  
The enslavement of your people  
The sins of our country.

You remain with the oppressed.  
Like Mary at the cross  
Weeping,  
But staying.  
Never looking away.  
You remain with the oppressed of our  
nation,  
Our Black brothers and sisters,  
Who have endured the worst of humanity,  
Still living with the scars of their bondage.  
America's sin.

Holy Liberator,  
Our Light  
Our Hope

You know pain,  
But you also know joy.

Today is a day of joy,  
Celebration,  
Gratitude.

For the freedom of Black Americans  
Is the freedom of all Americans.  
For none of us are free

while one of us is not.

Today we celebrate Black resilience,  
Black resistance,  
Black hope  
Black love  
Black lives

For what would America be without  
Jazz, hip-hop, blues, country, rock and roll?  
Jambalaya, watermelon, sweet potatoes, rice  
and beans, soul food?  
Angelou, Morrison, Baldwin, Dunbar, and  
Hughes?  
Modern dance, praise and worship, and  
fashion?

The Civil Rights Act of 1964?

Black culture is American culture.  
Black history is American history.

Holy Liberator,

Thank you for the strength and creativity of  
America's Black community. Your love  
shines through in their art, their food, their  
joy, and their struggle.

Be with us today as we celebrate the Black  
influence on our nation,  
As we remember the darkness of our past,  
and as we continue to fight for the freedom  
of all people. Amen.