

## Reflection

### ***A Prayer for Black History Month***

By Kierra Stuvland from the US advocacy group, "Bread".

*"O God. To you we offer our prayers, our praise, and our supplications.*

*This month, we celebrate Black History Month and honour the culture of our brothers and sisters. We remember the legacy of those who came before us – who not only paved the way but carried the bricks on broken backs that then built that road. We remember the songs, stories, and fiery hope of old men and little girls, granny midwives and marvelous musicians, great orators and leaders, entrepreneurs and innovators – those who are earth-tone brown, black as night, fair like the sands of Egypt. We are kings and queens. We are descendants of royalty.*

*Lord, when it's too hard living, we remember you are the great "I am" and our source of strength and purpose for each new day. Help us in our advocacy efforts ... to honour you with our work for justice, healing, and peace in our day. Help us as we labour for the end of hunger...*

*God, help us to value diversity beyond variety. Help us value diversity with a vision for a progressive future that acknowledges our strength together as well as the power, creativity, ideas, and part that we all bring when we are all welcome – to come to the table and taste and see that the Lord is good. Help us labour on until we all can sing, for good and right reasons: Oh happy day! Amen."*

Adapted from Bread for the World ([www.bread.org](http://www.bread.org)).

### ***A Prayer for Erdington***

Lord of all the earth  
Lord of Erdington  
We pray for your Shalom  
Which is so deep and so wide  
To be here, to be real, right now.  
Here in Erdington.  
We pray for your Shalom:  
Peace, justice, wholeness, righteousness,  
a flourishing for all  
Here in our community.  
Here in our homes.  
On the streets where we live and walk and ride  
Here in Erdington.  
We pray for your Shalom:  
Peace, justice, wholeness, righteousness,  
a flourishing for all.  
Here in our schools and colleges  
Here in the factories and depots.

Here in Erdington.  
We pray for your Shalom:  
Peace, justice, wholeness, righteousness,  
a flourishing for all.  
Here with the young and the old  
With the bored and the busy  
With those with no peace  
With all who are lonely.  
Insiders, outsiders  
Well-off, desparate.

Here in Erdington.  
We pray for your Shalom:  
Peace, justice, wholeness, righteousness,  
a flourishing for all.  
Amen.