Here we are yet again,
In our rage, our sorrow, our fear.

We are so angry we are tired.
Between the virus and anti-Blackness,
We are perpetually in grief.
We don’t know what the future holds.

We are a people of unclean lips.
We live in and accept the Logic of Empire
Its Impulse and Imagination course in our very flesh.
Daily we manifest dehumanization, exclusion, and isolation.

And yet again we are here
In faith, hope, and love.

We seek the wisdom and courage
To sustain and deepen the Solidarity
We see in the Tweets and in the streets.

May the Spirit of Revolutionary Love
Be present among us,
Fall fresh upon us,
And breathe again on each of us.

Transform us Within
So that Black Lives Matter in our hearts and minds.

Transform us Between
So that Black Lives Matter in our relationships.

Transform us Among
So that Black Lives Matter in our institutions and systems.

Transform us Around
So that we may grow a culture where All Black Lives Matter.

May our work today
Not only cultivate Beloved Community,
But help to rebuild the Soul of the World.

Ase. Amīn.
Blessed Be.
Amen.

—Michael-Ray Mathews
Chautauqua Chaplain • July 22–27, 2018
Deputy Director, Faith in Action
June 8, 2020