Stand Firm with an Open Heart
By: Becky Eldredge

What is the Holy Spirit waking us up to?
What is God inviting us to see?

May I not be blind to see what you see, God.
May I not be hardened of heart, to feel what you feel.

The deep love for all your children.
The desire for each to have breath and life.
The pain and ache as you watch breath be taken away
another act of human hatred upon one of your children.

Let my heart be broken, Lord.
Let me mourn and grieve.
Let me weep over the pain I see, the agony I hear.
Let me hear the cries, the deep aching and longing of your people desperately yearning
To be seen
To be heard
To be loved
To be freed

Awaken my heart, Lord.
Soften my heart, so I may sit still enough to listen to your grief
And the grief of my Black brothers and sisters who have suffered for so long.

It is you who gave breath and life to each one of us.
Help us not to take that away from anyone.
Help me know how to fight and stand with my Black brothers and sisters

Help me see what you see, O Lord.
Help me hear the cries and laments of your people.
Help me understand their stories and pain.
Help me welcome all into my heart
the pain,
the brokenness,
the angst of my brothers and sisters.

Let it change me and move me to act boldly with your Spirit’s guidance.

Show me the way, Lord.
Give me
ears to hear
eyes to see
a heart that grieves
Make known to me my path
my words
my steps
my call
Embolden me with your Spirit to
Speak your truth
Proclaim your Words
Act justly
Help me stand firm with a soft open heart.

Amen.