Revival out of helplessness

A worship service on the theme of anti-racism

By Rolanda Taylor and Yvonne Terry

Begin with a lament hymn of meditation without music, such as *More Voices* #66, “Senzeni Na?” (“What Have I Done?”), a song from the struggle for freedom in South Africa.

**SONG OF PRAISE**

See sidebar for suggestions.

**CONFESSIONAL PRAYER** (Unison)

God, it is hard for me to open to others who are not like me. I do not do well with change, and “those people” might change me. I want to do what’s right, being a Christian and all, but the truth is, Lord, I am scared; scared of the unknown, scared that others may look at me funny; scared, too, that I might enjoy reaching out. I know I should trust you more, but let’s face it, this loving all and turning the other cheek stuff is hard. So I go in my little corner and do nothing except look out for number one—me.

Forgive me, God. Remind me of the sacrifice Jesus made to show his love for you, and help me in my weakness to muster some faith, even as small as a mustard seed. Quell my fear, Lord, so I will be bold for you; that, like the Samaritan woman, I will not be afraid to break barriers of injustice. Help me to be a channel of your peace and a good citizen of your kin-dom. Amen.

**PRAYER OF ASSURANCE** (Responsive)

One: God, you reassure us through the story of the Samaritan woman how we can break the silence and the shame, thus bringing dignity and respect to all.

All: By Jesus’ acceptance of the Samaritan woman, we see that your Spirit is ever true. Let your Spirit rain down all around, and may every heart be renewed. Amen.

**SONG OF PRAISE**

See sidebar.

**GATHERED IN WORSHIP**

One: You there!

All: Who, me?

One: Yes! You. Why are you here?

All: I am here to worship God with you!

One: But you are different from me!

All: Why? Because I look different? The same God who made you made me, and God loves us all regardless of background, gender, culture, or ethnicity!

One: Okay! Then come! Let us worship the one true God who embraces all equally.

**OPENING PRAYER**

Eternal One, we hear the cries of our neighbours near and far, and our hearts reach out to them. We are thankful for your promise of hope, and we are thankful for Jesus’ love for you, which he demonstrated on the cross. Through this love we get not only a glimpse of you, but we also receive the good news. Strengthen our faith; help us to see each other through your eyes, so that we will be able to experience you in more ways than one. As we worship you this day, may we be open and sensitive to each other’s needs and presence, recognizing that we are all your children. This is our prayer. Amen.

**LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE**
CHILDREN’S STORYTIME

Read a book on diversity. Here are some suggestions.


SCRIPTURE

Psalm 25, Voices United #752
John 4:5–42

CHILDREN’S TIME/SUNDAY SCHOOL GAME

(Alternative)
(Using More Voices #138, “My Love Colours Outside the Lines.”)

This game teaches children how barriers can be broken down between people of different colours, religions, etc. Cut long strips of brightly coloured ribbons that are colours of the rainbow.

Use one colour of sidewalk chalk to draw lines making a square or rectangle on the ground. Some children should be inside the square or rectangle, and some children should be outside. The children on the outside are holding one end of the coloured ribbons, and the children on the inside are holding the other end. They are singing “My Love Colours Outside the Lines.”

The objective is that the children holding the end of the ribbons are not of the same background, culture, ethnicity, or religion. Let children know that they are loved by God no matter their background, culture, ethnicity or religion.

PRAYERS FOR REVIVING THE COMMUNITY

SENDING FORTH

More Voices #212, “Sent Out in Jesus’ Name”

CHORAL RESPONSE

Select a Song of Praise from the sidebar.

The Rev. Rolanda Taylor is the minister of Boissevain Pastoral Charge and Minto Pastoral Charge in Manitoba. Pastor Yvonne Terry is the minister of Soo-Line Pastoral Charge in Saskatchewan.

SONG OF PRAISE

Select a Song of Praise from the sidebar.

ANOTHER CHORUS SUGGESTION


Jesus loves the little children,
all the children of the world.
From the East and from the West,
from the North and from the South,
Jesus loves them all so let us shout it out!

SUGGESTIONS OF SONGS OF PRAISE

- More Voices #25, “O God, Send Out Your Spirit”
- Voices United #619, “Healer of Our Every Ill”
- More Voices #138, “My Love Colours Outside the Lines”
- More Voices #169, “When Hands Reach Out Beyond Divides”
- More Voices #62 “There Is Room for All”

OFFERING DEDICATION SONG OF PRAISE

OFFERING PRAYER OF THANKS

God, you show us that we are worthy of your love by Jesus’ reaching out to the Samaritan woman. We are like the Samaritan woman who calls out injustices against us. By pointing out the injustice, she declared her worthiness, and Jesus gave her Living Water. No matter our gender, culture, socio-economic status, ethnicity, or religion, you give us the truth: that we are one human race and we are loved. We ask for your blessing on these gifts we are sharing from the abundance you have given us. May they bring glory and honour to your name. Amen.

SONG OF PRAISE

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