

# Revival out of helplessness

## A worship service on the theme of anti-racism

By Rolanda Taylor and Yvonne Terry

**B**egin 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.

### 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

### 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.

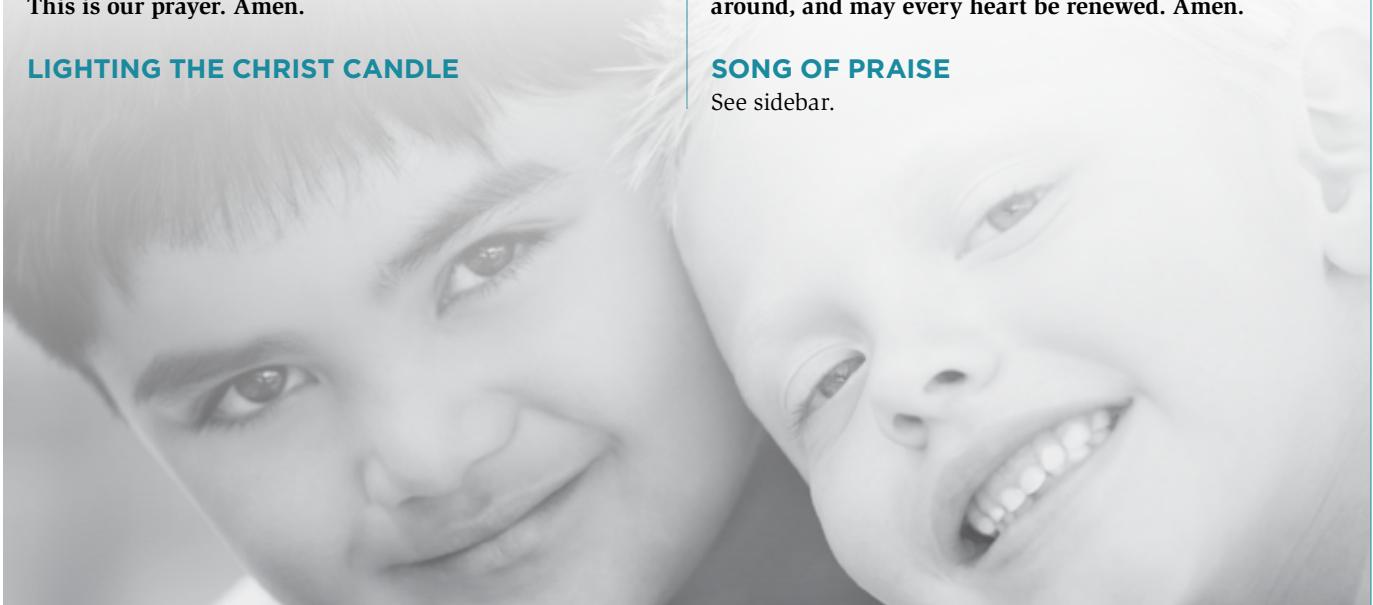
### PRAYER OF ASSURANCE (Responsive)

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.



### CHILDREN'S STORYTIME

Read a book on diversity. Here are some suggestions.

- *God's Dream* by Archbishop Desmond Tutu and Douglas Carlton Abrams. Illustration by LeUyen Pham. Somerville, Massachusetts: Candlewick Press, 2008.
- *The Barefoot Book of Children* by Tessa Strickland and Kate De Palma. Illustration by David Dean. Cambridge, Mass.: Barefoot Books, 2016, at barefootbooks.com.
- *One Her: How One Small Loan Made a Big Difference* by Katie Smith Milway. Illustration by Eugenie Fernandes. Tonawanda, N.Y.: Kids Can Press Ltd, 2008, at Citizenkid-central.com.

### 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.

### ANOTHER CHORUS SUGGESTION

"Jesus Loves the Little Children," adaptation by Pastor Yvonne Terry. Tune: CHILDREN. Music: George F. Root.

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!

### SCRIPTURE

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

### SERMON

See the Bible study on page 20, "Background History" and "Reflection."

### SONG OF PRAISE

Select a Song of Praise from the sidebar.

### MINUTE FOR MISSION

### 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

Select a Song of Praise from the sidebar.

### 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.

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## SUGGESTIONS OF SONGS OF PRAISE

- *More Voices* #25, "O God, Send Out Your Spirit"
- "Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior." Text by Fanny J. Crosby. Tune: Pass Me Not with Refrain by William H. Doane. *African American Heritage Hymnal*.
- *Voices United* #619, "Healer of Our Every Ill"
- "This Little Light of Mine." Tune: Light of Mine. African American Spiritual: Arr. by Nolan Williams Jr., *African American Heritage Hymnal*
- *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"