

## Reconciliation Offering Worship Resources

Reconciliation Offering celebrates our journey toward wholeness and imagining a world where racism is dismantled and all of God's children can flourish. The offering is received on Sundays September 26th and October 3rd. Here are some resources to help in your worship planning.

### Lectionary Texts for September 26<sup>th</sup>

Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22 and Psalm 124  
Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29 and Psalm 19:7-14  
James 5:13-20  
Mark 9:38-50

### Lectionary Texts for October 3<sup>rd</sup>

Job 1:1, 2:1-10 and Psalm 26  
Genesis 2:18-24 and Psalm 8  
Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12  
Mark 10:2-16

## Call to Worship

### "Light"

Adapted from lyrics by India.Arie

**Reader 1:** I am not the things my family did  
I am not the voices in my head

**Reader 2:** I am not the pieces of the brokenness inside

**People:** You are light. We are light!

**Reader 1:** I'm not the mistakes that I have made  
Or any of the things that caused me pain

**Reader 2:** I am not the pieces of the dream I left behind

**People:** You are light. We are light!

**Reader 1:** I am not the color of my eyes  
I am not the skin on the outside

**Reader 2:** I am not my age  
I am not my race

**People:** You are light. We are light!  
May our lights shine with the glory of God!

## Alternate Call to Worship

“Gracious God, you show us the meaning of reconciliation in the life of Jesus Christ.

In His touch, His words, His actions, Jesus reconciled people to God and to the community.

We gather to renew ourselves that we, too, might reconcile others with a touch, a word, or an act.” Chalice Worship (177)

## God Is Love Community Prayer

Written by Nathan Hill

Sung Response is from the bridge of Aaron Niequest’s Love Can Change the World.  
Love Can Change the World | A New Liturgy

Sung Response:

God is love,

God is love

God, you smile on us.

You smile on Creation.

You lift the cloud of guilt from your people.

You bring food and drink to all who thirst and hunger for righteousness –

For the gift of Your generosity, we cry out,

God is love,

God is love

You give us each a fresh start.

You proclaim Your love from the heavens.

You are always closer to us than we think.

May our hearts and our homes shine with Your glory!

For the gift of Your presence we sing,

God is love,

God is love

May the world know peace.

May love and truth meet in our streets.

May new life sprout from barren ground.

May all who are broken find wholeness in You.

Reveal your justice in us as we join in praise,

God is love,

God is love

## Hymns/Praise Songs

### Free Video Resource:

#### “Heal Our Land”

Performed by the University Christian Church Praise Team

Directed by Gladstone Marcus, Produced by Gillian Marcus

SongSelect #1000651 (It is safest to have a SongSelect or other appropriate license to share this video in your worship setting.)

#### Hear Our Praises by Reuben Morgan

##### Chalice Praise #41

#### I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me

Arranged by Bill Thomas

Chalice Hymnal #614

#### Woke Up This Morning

African American Spiritual

Chalice Hymnal #623

Alternate Verse: Woke up this morning with my mind *Stayed on justice*

#### God of Freedom, God of Justice

By Shirley Erena Murray, Guthrie Foote

Chalice Hymnal #656

#### God of Justice

By Tim Hughes

(Available on SongSelect or other resource)

#### The Medicine

From the Common Hymnal

The Medicine — Common Hymnal

[Note: If you reach out to Common Hymnal via Twitter or elsewhere, they will give you permission to use the video in worship.]

## Communion Prayer

by Karon Alexander

Gracious God, we give you thanks for this opportunity of remembrance. We remember the covenant you made with us and rejoice that you continue to call us to reconciliation with you and all humanity. We offer gratitude as we come to this table of remembrance, sacrifice, and victory. On this day that we celebrate Reconciliation Sunday, we acknowledge the sin of racism and commit to eliminating it from our hearts, communities, and our institutions. Just as you gave the gift of your Son to save the world from its brokenness, we come in celebration of the gift of Jesus. We thank you for your faithfulness towards all of creation. Help us to achieve a world where the weak are protected, where different races live in harmony and mutual respect; a world where peace is brokered and justice is guided by love.

As we eat and drink the symbols of Jesus' shed blood and broken body, may we also remember that He was raised from the dead for ALL humanity. Bless these symbols that through them may we be one in Christ. We pray that you fill our hearts with love for our neighbors and that you will work through us to heal our land.

This prayer we ask in the matchless name of Jesus. Amen.

## **Benediction**

May God bless you with discomfort  
At easy answers, half-truths, and superficial relationships  
So that you may live deep within your heart.

May God bless you with anger  
At injustice, oppression and exploitation of people,  
So that you may work for justice, freedom and peace.

May God bless you with tears  
To shed for those who suffer pain, rejection, starvation and war  
So that you may reach out your hand to comfort them  
and to turn their pain into joy.

And may God bless you with enough foolishness  
To believe that you can make a difference in the world,  
So that you can do what others claim cannot be done.  
Amen.

– Franciscan Benediction