



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 25th and October 2nd. Here are some resources to help in your worship planning.

Lectionary Texts for September 25th

[Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15](#)

[Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16](#)

[1 Timothy 6:6-19](#)

[Luke 16:19-31](#)

Lectionary Texts for October 3rd

World Communion Sunday

[Lamentations 1:1-6](#)

[Lamentations 3:19-26](#)

or [Psalm 137](#)

[2 Timothy 1:1-14](#)

[Luke 17:5-10](#)

Call to Worship

(from Prayers and Psalms by Joan Stott)

59C*

A Call to Worship

Pentecost 20C [Ordinary 27C] or [Proper 22C]

Psalm 137

Holy God, we come to worship you,
as flawed and even failed human beings.

**We come, aware that God knows us for
who and what we are, and yet God loves us.**

Eternal God, we come to worship you,
and despite life's experiences, we never learn!

**We come, clinging to old habits and ideas,
yet we also want to open ourselves to God.**

Creative Love, we come to worship you,
believing that you love and accept us as we are,



with our personal values and experiences,
our hang-ups, our fears and our concerns.

**We come, conscious that sometimes it is hard
to sing God's praises and even pray for forgiveness
for ourselves and for others. Bless us today, Tender God. Amen.**

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)

Prayer: God's Love for All People

Chalice Hymnal 682

World Council of Churches Vancouver Assembly 1983

Eternal God, whose image lies in the hearts of all people,
We live among peoples whose ways are different from ours,
Whose faiths are foreign to us,
Whose tongues are unintelligible to us.
Help us to remember that you love all people with your great love,
That all religion is an attempt to respond to you,
That the yearnings of other hearts are much like
our own and are known to you.
Help us to recognize you in the words of truth, the things of beauty,
The actions of love about us.
We pray through Christ, who is a stranger to no one land more than another,
And to every land no less than to another.

— *World Council of Churches, Vancouver Assembly, 1983 in God Has No Religion by Frances Sheridan Goulart*



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**

For Everyone Born, A Place At The Table **by Shirley Erena Murray 685 Church of Scotland**

For everyone born, a place at the table.

For everyone born, clean water and bread,
a new shelter, space, a safe place for growing,
for everyone born, a star overhead,

[Chorus]

And God will delight when we are creators
of justice and joy, compassion and peace:
yes, God will delight when we are creators
of justice and joy, justice and joy!

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