

CONVERGENCE MUSIC PROJECT

MUSIC FOR A JUST AND GENEROUS CHRISTIANITY

CMP is eager to point people to the ***“We Stand With Love”*** campaign which is sponsored by the Convergence Network and a wide variety of contributing authors, artists, speakers, and social and religious leaders.

Go to www.westandwithlove.org for further details and resources!

The following list of resources was put together by CMP contributors Gary and Lenora Rand, Andra Moran, Suzanne Castle, and Richard Bruxvoort Colligan. We are grateful for their gifts of time and creativity in creating these prayers and other liturgical resources.

We are hoping that congregations will participate in the “We Stand With Love” campaign’s focus on love, compassion, and uniting beyond differences and divisions by using some of the following prayers, song suggestions, and liturgical resources in services of worship as we approach the November 2016 presidential election.

Gary and Lenora Rand put together an entire service of worship that includes song suggestions from the CMP website, written prayers and order of service, and a beautiful sermon by Lenora. Please visit Gary and Lenora at The Plural Guild www.pluralguild.com to listen to more of their music and to learn more about their ministry and vision. **This complete order of service is found on the “Lyrics” section of this “We Stand With Love Worship Service” product** on the CMP site.

Several of Richard Bruxvoort Colligan’s compositions are available on the CMP site. He is a wonderful artist and prolific songwriter of songs based on the Psalms. Find Richard at www.worldmaking.net.

Andra Moran is a singer/songwriter, author, and liturgist who also has songs on the CMP site. She can be contacted at www.andramoran.com. Andra co-authored “Brim,” an interactive book of creative resources with author, pastor, speaker and worship designer Rev. Dr. Suzanne Castle. The brief response “Beloved, Let Us Love Each Other,” which is loaded into the audio file on this product page is by Andra.

We hope these materials are useful and meaningful to you and your congregations!

Sharing Peace : An introduction for worshipful practice.

by Andra Moran

When we gather together, we practice peace, for peace, after all, takes practice.

Peace can be fleeting-- hard to grasp, hard to hold -- and yet, sometimes just a moment of peace is enough to quell the turbulence within us. As followers of Jesus, we are called to be Peace Makers. As we practice making peace within us and between us here, we build our skills to create and share peace in a world hungry for healing and hope.

You're invited today to help to make moments of peace. We're using the same method that the early church used, exchanging the words "Peace be with you." Together, we can speak the gift of Peace into being.

We begin by steadying ourselves, and breathing in the stillness of God's deep and abiding peace. Exhale fear, worry, trouble, doubt and pain. Take a few moments to let the movement of your breath quiet your body and your spirit. When you are ready, turn to someone near to you and look into their eyes. Offer the words "Peace be with you" as a blessing.

And now, let peace be practiced here.

We Stand With Love : Words for Action
by Andra Moran & Suzanne Castle (www.brimproject.com)

Offered here is a way to create stations which can serve as reflecting points for people to move between during gatherings exploring the *We Stand With Love* movement. Explore the prompting questions below, and consider how you might use these in your community. A variety of suggested uses follow.

WE

Who are WE?

What does WE look like?

What does it mean to be part of a unit that includes more than your hopes, needs, wants and dreams?

STAND

What do you STAND for?

What matters to you enough to STAND up?

How will you take a STAND?

WITH

What does WITH imply?

Who are you WITH?

WITH what will you serve the world?

LOVE

Who or what do you hear crying out for LOVE in the world?

How do you embody LOVE?

The Greatest Commandment: LOVE your neighbor. How do you live LOVE?

Suggested uses:

*Print these words in large type on four separate posters and place around the gathering space (affixed to the wall or set with candles on tabletops). Invite people to ponder each word and set of questions at a contemplative point in the worship service. You might include stickie notes and markers at each station for people to post their responses.

*Set up stations with each word and corresponding question. As people move to receive communion, invite them to visit all four stations.

The following liturgical resources and song suggestions were submitted by CMP contributor Richard Bruxvoort Colligan. All of Richard's songs can be found at www.worldmaking.net

We Stand With Love: Text suggestions

John 8.1-11

Jesus stands with a woman caught in the act of adultery, protecting her, defending her life and offering her a new start. He stood with love. He helped her stand with love.

Luke 13.10-17

On the Sabbath, Jesus takes heat for church people for healing a bent-over woman. She was healed and stood up straight with love. In the end, "all his opponents were put to shame; and the crowd was rejoicing at all the wonderful things that he was doing." (NRSV)

Luke 5.17-26

While Jesus is teaching indoors, a paralytic person is lowered through the roof of the house by the man's friends. The man could not stand. Jesus first forgave the man, then healed him so that he stood up (with love!), took up his mat and went home— probably to totally freak out his family. The crowd's response: "We have seen strange things today." (v26)

Luke 6.27-36

Love the world. Shock the hell out of people by being kind to those who don't seem to deserve it, specifically the ones some say are our enemies. What counts is not being friendly to friends, but extending Jesus' life to those who need life. Take a stand with Jesus, the One named Love With us (Emmanuel)

Matt 26.6-13

At Bethany, a woman with an alabaster jar of expensive ointment anoints Jesus' head. It seems like a waste of money to the disciples, but Jesus welcomes the blessing, even proclaiming her a kind of saint of evangelism. "Wherever the good news is announced, what she has done will be remembered." (v13) When Jesus says, "You'll always have the poor with you," maybe he means, "Serving the poor is your life-long ministry. You will never be done." Stand with Jesus who welcome love and calls out love from people.

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We Stand With Love Litany (multi-faith version)

Created by Brian McLaren

Submitted by Suzanne Castle

Each time the reader pauses, those gathered are invited to say: WE STAND WITH LOVE

Now is the time for each of us to make a commitment and take a stand.

We stand with love.

Fists, stones, knives, and spears ... swords, guns, drones, and bombs ... from our most ancient history to today's headlines, we human beings have reached for weapons to harm and kill one another, believing the lie that violence can cure violence or that revenge can end revenge. But you, God of love, have called us to cease harming one another and to learn to love one another.

Now is the time for each of us to make a commitment and take a stand.

We stand with love.

For too long, human beings have judged one another by the color of our skin rather than the content of our character. We have turned against one another based on race, and used ethnicity as an excuse for exploitation, enslavement, exclusion, segregation, separation, and prejudice.

Racism is our nation's original sin and historic disgrace, and we pray for grace to face it, turn from it, and turn toward one another in love. We pray for the wisdom to see our diversity as a blessing and a gift, and

Now is the time for each of us to make a commitment and take a stand.

We stand with love.

In the name of God and religion, people have foolishly tried to justify hate, exclusion, distrust, and even killing. But you call us from fear to confidence, from hate to love, and from ignorance to wisdom. Teach us to love all people - Christian, Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist, Jew, Sikh, atheist, agnostic, whatever. And help us, in the context of our own traditions, to follow the way of love
for

The following resource was put together by Rev. Suzanne Castle

PRAYER + MUSIC + SCRIPTURE

Song used: "You'll Find Love" (found in Chalice Praise, *words and music: Paul Frantsen*)

Scriptures taken from the *Contemporary English Version*

Hear these words from Psalm 139, verses 13 and 14:

You are the one who put me together inside my mother's body,
and I praise you because of the wonderful way you created me.
Everything you do is marvelous!
Of this I have no doubt.

SING Verse 1 + Chorus "You'll Find Love"

PRAY: You give to us Your heartbeat, Sheltering One,
so that light and dark become the same and we will find wonder and life in You;
that we might embark into this world to share a new story of Your people,
gathered for the healing of the nations.

Hear these words from Romans 12:10-13:

Love each other as brothers and sisters and honor others more than you do
yourself.
Never give up. Eagerly follow the Holy Spirit and serve the Lord.
Let your hope make you glad. Be patient in time of trouble and never stop
praying.
Take care of God's needy people and welcome strangers into your home.

SING Verse 2 + Chorus "You'll Find Love"

From Suzanne Castle

Matt. 22:34-40

WHAT YOU NEED: Video player

DIRECTIONS:

Show this video from YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f1A716r5xE>.

Encourage people to turn to another person and describe one way to show love in their daily work, school, etc.

Rom. 12:9-21

NOTE: THIS IS A 2 PART ENCOUNTER.

WHAT YOU NEED: Tagbord tags--1-2 per person-- note: you can place in the bulletin, in baskets, or have this set up as a separate station people visit during the service, Markers, Basket or Bulletin Board with headings: BLESSING, CONCERN.

STEP 1 DIRECTIONS: (spoken or printed, depending on your context, suggested order after the sermon while music is being offered.)

Standing with love encourages us to stand with one another in all seasons of our lives with a posture of grace and hope. You are invited to take two tags. On one tag, please write down a blessing in your life at this moment. On the other, please jot down a concern you have. When finished, take the tags and place them on the boards.

STEP 2 DIRECTIONS: (spoken or printed, depending on your context)

As you depart today, please visit the Blessing and Concerns area, where we have tags hanging. You are invited to take a tag that is not your own from each place and use it prayerfully this week. Lift up joy and thanksgiving, love and compassion into the situations noted on the tags.

Scripture, Sung & Spoken

Romans 12:9-21, 1 John 4:7, NRSV.

Sung Response by Andra Moran

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord.

[Sung response]

Beloved, let us love each other. Love is from God.

Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.

[Sung response]

Beloved, let us love each other. Love is from God.

Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

[Sung response]

Beloved, let us love each other. Love is from God.

Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, 'Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.' No, 'if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads.' Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

[Sung response]

Beloved, let us love each other. Love is from God.