

# JOIN THE MOVEMENT



## Join the Movement toward Racial Justice Worship Resources

### CALL TO WORSHIP (1)

- Leader:** Alone, we can be one seed planted for justice.
- Assembly:** **Together, we can be a movement rooted in God's love.**
- Leader:** Individually, we can be one voice crying out for mercy.
- Assembly:** **Together, we can be a movement building a new world.**
- Leader:** Separately, we can be one heart aching for repair.
- Assembly:** **Together, we can be a movement toward racial justice.**
- Leader:** Affirming all of our unique selves,  
cherishing all of our singular experiences,  
holding all of our distinct passions,  
God calls us and gathers us.
- Assembly:** **Together, we worship as the Body of Christ.**  
**Together, we join the movement of the Spirit toward liberation.**

CALL TO WORSHIP (2)

Leader: Listen, people of God, for the voice of God is calling:  
as surely as the tides and seasons change  
as surely as the waters flow across the earth  
as surely as the wind blows from coast to coast  
we are a part of the movement of Love.

**Assembly: In difficult times,  
God calls us to join the movement of courageous truth-tellers.**

Leader: In comfortable times,  
God calls us to join the movement of silence-breakers.

**Assembly: In times of struggle,  
God calls us to join the movement toward freedom.**

Leader: In times of peace,  
God calls us to join the movement toward justice.

**Assembly: In all times,  
God calls us to join with the movement of the Spirit.**

Leader: Draw near, people of God, for the presence of the Holy is here:  
as surely as the image of God dancing in each body  
as surely as the dignity rising in all created beings  
as surely as the love deserved by every person  
we are a part of the movement of Justice.

**Assembly: Let us worship God,  
drawing near to the presence of the Holy  
listening for the voice that calls us  
to join the movement of love.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY/PRAYER OF INVOCATION/COLLECT

Creating God, Breath of Life, who moved over the waters at the dawn of creation, we praise you for the ever-flowing, ever-growing movement of your Spirit within and among us. As you gathered up the dust to create humanity in your image, so gather us together in solidarity with your life-bringing work of love in the world. Empower us to join the movement toward racial justice until each person fully knows and experiences flourishing beyond our wildest dreams. In the name of the God who is One-in-Community, we pray. Amen.

TIME OF CONFESSION/COMMUNITY ACCOUNTABILITY

*Call to Accountability*

As the Body of Christ, we are always being called to join the movement of the Spirit in building God's realm of justice and love on earth as it is in heaven. As followers of the movement-maker Jesus, we are accountable to this vision of God's commonwealth of peace and freedom. This time in our worship service invites us to notice how we are doing at embodying this calling and where God's kingdom is far from our reality. So let us bring before God and this community the truths of the places in our lives and our communities that are stagnant, complacent, unmoved and unmoving.

*Prayer of Confession*

New World-Building Creator, reveal to us the places where we are stagnant in our practices of racial justice. Give us the courage to recognize and name where we are being called to lean into discomfort and grow beyond the edges of our understanding. We acknowledge these personal growing edges aloud or in the silence of our hearts.

[time of silence for naming and/or contemplation]

Solidarity-Loving Jesus, show us the ways that we are complacent and complicit with racial injustice. Give us the wisdom to recognize and name where we as a community are replicating patterns of oppression and harm. We acknowledge these community harms aloud or in the silence of our hearts.

[time of silence for naming and/or contemplation]

Movement-Making Spirit, open us to be moved by the histories and systems that shape our world with myths of superiority and illusions of supremacy. Give us the boldness to recognize and name the tragedies of our world we have been encouraged to erase, disregard, or forget. We acknowledge these legacies aloud or in the silence of our hearts.

[time of silence for naming and/or contemplation]

We call on you, Resilient Sustainer, Radical Redeemer, Abundant Creator, to collaborate with us in moving more deeply into practices of transformation and growth, truth-telling and healing, liberation and repair. Forgive us, strengthen us, and renew our commitment to keep on joining the movement toward racial justice. Until justice comes, we pray. Amen.

### *Words of Assurance*

**Leader:** Hear the good news, beloved ones of the Holy One:  
the steadfast love of God never ceases  
God's mercies never come to an end.

**Assembly:** **Praise God for the new day rising  
and for each chance we have  
to join the movement of the Spirit  
in building God's realm of justice and love.**

### SCRIPTURE READING SUGGESTIONS AND SERMON THEMES

- Romans 12:1-8 (or 1-21)  
God's movement is not conformed to the systems and structures of this world, but transforming them. We are called to use our gifts in service to that transformation.
- Luke 15:1-10  
In the Spirit's movement toward racial justice, there is no one unworthy of being called into the work. In order to organize people, we must love them, and if we love them, we can't leave them behind to white supremacy.
- I Corinthians 12:4-26  
We all have a role to play in the movement toward racial justice. As individuals and communities, we are called to discern what spiritual gifts we bring to this work and use them in service of collective liberation.
- Mark 10:35-45  
We are not called to be saviors, but to be servants. Joining the movement means learning how to come alongside the revolutionary work of freedom-making activists and organizations and be led by those most impacted by racial injustice.



## TIME OF GENEROSITY/OFFERING

### *Invitation to Generosity (1)*

Christianity began as a movement of revolutionary love. We have a chance to continue in these humble paths of lovingkindness as we join the movement toward racial justice, committing not only our hearts, but also our resources. How much are you willing to invest in ending racism? What can you give to create greater racial equity in this community, in our denomination, in our world? May the offerings we now receive declare our commitment to the cause of Christ, the movement of the Spirit, and the creative and restorative work of God.

### *Invitation to Generosity (2)*

Envision a UCC movement building on legacies of Spirit-led resistance, growing & innovating in faithful antiracism, sustaining the momentum toward racial justice for generations to come. Imagine a time when white supremacy and racial injustice are remnants of the past and we dwell in a just world of equality for all! Let the offerings we give in this moment be a declaration of our intention to move toward this vision, investing in racial justice now and guaranteeing a spiritual home rooted in equity and affirmation for the next generation.

### *Prayer of Dedication*

Sovereign God, you promised us that our faith might move mountains. So we offer ourselves with our gifts, trusting that you have a purpose for them and for us in moving the world toward racial justice. Through these gifts and all of our commitments to kindom-making, may we share in the most important movement of all time: creating a more just world for all. Amen.

## RITUAL OF INTENTION AND COMMITMENT

### *Materials*

- Large clear glass vase(s)
- Large flat-bottomed bowl(s)
- Glass beads or small to medium river stones (heavy enough to sink in water)
- Water
- Table
- Table covering evoking flowing water (optional)
- Candle (optional)

## *Set Up*

Create a prayer station on a centrally-located table in your worship space. If you have a large worshipping community, you can set up several similar/identical stations around the worship space. If using, arrange the table covering to evoke a sense of moving water. Place a large flat-bottomed bowl on the table. Place the large clear glass vase inside the bowl. Mounting putty can be helpful to secure the vase to the bowl if necessary. Fill the vase all the way to the very top with water, so it is just about to spill over. Place glass beads or stones on the table around the bowl. Place the candle on the table in a location where it won't impede the ritual action. Before or as the service begins, light the candle.

## *Ritual*

### Introduction

Leader (1): Our stories tell us that, in the beginning there was the movement of the Spirit over the waters as God set in motion the creative work of world-making.

Leader (2): We, too, are called to join the movement of the Spirit in this creative world-making.

Leader (1): Our stories remind us that, when the people were enslaved, there was the movement of the Spirit through the waters of the Red Sea as God made a way out of no way for collective liberation.

Leader (2): We, too, are called to join the movement of the Spirit in making a way for collective liberation.

Leader (1): Our stories reveal to us that, when Jesus leaned into his calling, there was the movement of the Spirit over the waters as God declared the belovedness of his sacred body.

Leader (2): We, too, are called to join the movement of the Spirit in affirming the belovedness of each sacred body.

Leader (1): Our stories show us that, in the end, there will always be the movement of the Spirit through the waters as God invites us to join together in building a new realm of Love and Justice.

Leader (2): We, too, are called to join the movement of the Spirit toward love and racial justice.

Leader (1): So how will you join the movement? How will you invest in ending racism in your life, in our community, in our world? How will you help build and amplify our collective power to move toward racial justice?

Leader (2): You are invited to come to the water, where the Spirit moves, and take a stone/glass bead. As you hold the stone/bead, say aloud or in your heart, your intention for joining the movement toward racial justice. Seal your intention by dropping the stone into the water. As you do, notice the ways that justice rolls down like water. Pay attention to how our actions, collectively, taken together, make righteousness rise like an ever-flowing stream.

Leader (1): Let us prayerfully discern and intentionally affirm how we are being called to join the movement of the Spirit toward racial justice.

### Time for Ritual Action

[Allow time for people to make their way to the prayer station(s). Make sure you have considered ways to assist or provide alternative actions for those with access and mobility needs.]

### Concluding Prayer

Movement-making Spirit, we thank you for all the ways you call us to join our hearts and minds, bodies and spirits together for the work of collective liberation. Empower us to keep our commitments to the work of racial justice as we take up our roles as individuals and as a community in the unfolding story of your liberating love. Keep us moving always closer to your dream of peace and wholeness, freedom and flourishing for all people, until justice rolls down like a river and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream. Amen.

### BENEDICTION/BLESSING AND DISMISSAL 1

Leader:       The blessing of the Creator's wild and abundant love surrounds us at every turn.  
                  The blessing of the Redeemer's radical and life-giving hope has our backs.  
                  The blessing of the Sustainer's fierce and tender dreams reach toward us.  
                  May these blessings move us beyond defensiveness to accountability.  
                  May these blessings move us from complicity to solidarity.  
                  May these blessings move us past despair to freedom's threshold.  
                  May these blessings move us toward each other.  
                  May these blessings move us toward racial justice.

BENEDICTION/BLESSING AND DISMISSAL 2

Leader: Together, we are the blessing  
that echoes like protest chants and sings like freedom songs.  
We are the blessing  
that smells like bread and tastes like tears.  
We are the blessing  
that refuses to forget and commits to repair.  
We are the blessing  
that dances in celebration and marches in rage.  
Together, we are the blessing  
that moves.  
So go forth from this place  
to be this blessing  
joining the movement of the Spirit  
toward love and justice.



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