

January 14, 2018

Planner: Nan Sargeant

“Jesus Calls” RACIAL JUSTICE DAY

John 1: 43-51

Prelude

Welcome

Adapt the attached words of welcome to your specific congregation and particular needs.

Call To Worship:

I say to you, my friends, that if you should concentrate all the thanks and praise which your whole souls have the power to possess, to that God who has created you, and has kept and preserved you, and has granted you the chance to live in peace one with another; then you should serve God according to your own will and with your whole soul.

—Mosiah 1:52–54, adapted

*Opening Hymn

Summoned By the God Who Made Us

CCS 330

*Invocation

*Response

Peace Moment & Lighting of Candle (see prayer attached)

Confessional Peace Reading:

Reader: God, we confess our weaknesses, our brokenness, our separation from you and one another.

Congregation: Empower us with your strength—the force of love.

Reader: We confess that we are often afraid and deny our worth and strength.

Congregation: Forgive us when we fail to sense your love for us.

Reader: We confess that we are sometimes apathetic and turn from acts of justice.

Congregation: Fill us with a sense of your call to be strong and courageous.

Reader: We confess and repent from our powerless stance.

All: Forgive us, God, and renew us with your spirit, empowering us to be your people in this place and time.

—Barbara Howard in Prayers and Readings for Worship, vol. 1, Judy Judd, ed., (Herald Publishing House, 1987, ISBN 9780830904785), 58, adapted.

Hymn We Are Children of Creation

CCS 340

Disciples Generous Response

Blessing and Receiving of Our Offerings

Hymn Come And Bring Light

CCS 287

Message of Justice

Pastoral Response

*Hymn	Help Us Accept Each Other	CCS 333
*Sending Forth	(see attached)	
*Postlude		

Welcome:

Welcome! Welcome to this time and this place made sacred by our presence and purpose. Take a moment to slowly breathe. Let go of expectations, concerns, and worries. Be with us in this moment. Breathe.

Community of Christ identifies today as Racial Justice Day. This is an opportunity for members and friends to intentionally focus on issues of injustice that prevail in our world, towns, villages, and communities and to identify—as individuals and congregations—ways we can work to bring about God’s peaceable kingdom for all. We confess our duty to respond to the compelling need for justice in this place and time. Why? Because Jesus calls.

Prayer for Peace:

Creating God,

It is in the name of our brother Jesus that we seek your face, welcoming this time when your Spirit rests upon us. As we feel the warmth of your Spirit, we pray we may become “Creating Beings” right along beside you. Forgive us for our inaction, and help us transform into a people who put aside our selfishness, narrowness, and discriminating habits. Oh, we desperately need your blessing upon us to see the giftedness that “difference” is; to be the hope for those who too long have doubted, and to be a faithful friend to those forgotten or alone. Help us draw out into the world those who have been mired down in despair; let our joy in you bring a promise of harmony where they may flourish in life.

May we see those who are burdened, with the same eyes as those we hold close. We pray our focus may be on their uniqueness and that we are able to recognize your face in them. Our desire is to have a heart of compassion and grace. Help us, Creator, have in us that peace that passes all understanding as we seek the peaceable kingdom.

Amen.

—Carol Caplinger

Sending Forth:., adapted from Henri Nouwen’s *Know Yourself as Truly Loved, “The Inner Voice of Love”*

God, as we go from this place, it is not so much a problem of getting something *out* of our system but to take something *in* that deepens and strengthens our sense of your goodness and allows our anguish to be embraced by love. We discover that the more love we can take in and hold on to, the less fearful we will become. Help us to speak more simply, more directly and more freely about your love without fear of other’s reactions. Your disciples have a loving sense of your presence. Let us speak in the world, let us act in the world through a deep connectedness to you, God, with simplicity and directness. Let us be unafraid to live into your justice; Live into your peace unafraid of being misunderstood or rejected. The more we come to know ourselves through you—spirit, mind, and body—as truly loved, the freer we become to proclaim your good news. That is the freedom of the children of God. Go in God’s freedom and love. Amen!