

Sunday, June 20, 2020

Commemoration of the Emanuel Nine, Northeastern Minnesota Synod Worship Resources for Congregations

Gathering

(As the assembly sings the gathering songs, you are invited to come forward and light a candle in memory of someone who has died from violence of any kind or been affected by violence of any kind.)

Just a Closer Walk with Thee (ELW #697, TFF #253)

Precious Lord, Take My Hand (ELW #773, TFF #193)

My Lord, What a Morning (ELW #438, TFF #40)

Leaders move to the font as the songs come to an end.

The assembly is invited to stand and face the font as they are able.

Call to Worship

The grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the Communion of The Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

Welcome to worship.

Whether we are aware of it or not, we all come to church looking to be renewed by the God who makes us one. When we experience brokenness and pain, God's word not only comforts us, it also diagnoses and treats our wounds. To all who are weary and carrying heavy burdens, Christ says come and you will find rest for your souls.

In our worship service today, you will be invited to join in commemorating the Emanuel 9, our sisters and brothers in Christ who were martyred at Mother Emanuel Church in Charleston South Carolina.

On June 17, 2015, Clementa C. Pinckney, Cynthia Marie Graham Hurd, Susie Jackson, Ethel Lee Lance, DePayne Middleton-Doctor, Tywanza Sanders, Daniel Lee Simmons, Sharonda Coleman-Singleton, and Myra Thompson were murdered by a self-professed white supremacist while they were gathered for Bible study and prayer at the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church (often referred to as Mother Emanuel) in Charleston, South Carolina. Pastors Pinckney

and Simmons were both graduates of the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary and the shooter was a member of an ELCA congregation.

As part of the 2019 ELCA Churchwide Assembly, voting members adopted a resolution designating June 17 as a commemoration of the martyrdom of the Emanuel 9. The ELCA's relationship to the shooter, as well as two of the slain, reminds us of both our complicity and our calling. Together we confess that we are in bondage to the sins of racism and white supremacy and, at the same time, we rejoice in the freedom that is ours in Christ Jesus who "has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us" (Ephesians 2:14). May God continue to guide us as we seek repentance and renewal, and racial justice and reconciliation among God's precious children. Today, as we stand before God, we are encouraged to reaffirm our commitment to repenting of the sins of division which continue to plague this church, to venerate the martyrdom of the Emanuel Nine, to mark this day of penitence with study and prayer, and to stand with our siblings in Christ who worship through the AME tradition who are commemorating these saints in their church today, as well.

Confession and Forgiveness

With Job of old we cry out:

Everywhere the innocent suffer.

Our desires and efforts achieve us little.

O God, are you good, yet do nothing to help us?

Our answers have holes, and we fall through.

The assembly is invited to voice public laments aloud or in silence.

For what do we confess?

The prayers continue.

(Option 1)

Gracious God, we thank you for making one human family of all the peoples of the earth and for creating all the wonderful diversity of cultures. **Enrich our lives by ever-widening circles of fellowship and show us your presence in those who differ most from us.**

From the bondage of racism that denies the humanity of every human being and the prejudices within us that deny the dignity of those who are oppressed, Lord set us free: **Lord, have mercy.**

From racism that blinds oppressors to the destruction caused by the spirit and practice of racial injustice, Christ set us free: **Christ, have mercy.**

From the racism that will not recognize the work of your Spirit in other cultures: Lord set us free: **Lord, have mercy.**

Forgive those of us who have been silent and apathetic in the face of racial intolerance and bigotry, both overt and subtle, public and private. **And take away the arrogance and hatred that infect our hearts.**

Break down the walls that separate us. **And help us to find that unity that is the fruit of righteousness and will enable us to become your beloved community.**

Empower us to speak boldly for justice and truth and help us to deal with one another without hatred or bitterness, working together with mutual forbearance and respect. **And work through our struggles and confusion to accomplish your purposes.**

O God of unconditional love,
you who show no partiality in respect to people or nations,
we have heard your good news of great joy for all the people.
We hear that good news, and in hearing, believe.
We know that your sanctuary is a house of worship for all people,
with no regard for the color of our skin.
As we worship you, knit us into a people,
a seamless garment of many colors.
May we celebrate our unity, made whole in our diversity.
Forgive us for our inability to let our "old selves" die to the world
We acknowledge that we participate in structures that are inherently racist,
and yet we so often do nothing to remedy it.
Show us we fail when we judge others according to the color of their flesh.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of +

Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **Amen.**

Adapted from the United Church of Christ's "Prayers for Racial Justice Sunday" (www.ucc.org/worship/ways) and from the United Church of Canada (www.united-church.ca/bfw/resources.shtm)

(Option 2)

Just as the prophet Jeremiah proclaimed, let us not rush to the language of healing, before understanding the fullness of the injury and the depth of the wound. **Let us not rush to offer a band-aid, when the gaping wound requires surgery and complete reconstruction.**

Let us not offer false equivalencies, thereby diminishing the particular pain being felt in a particular circumstance in a particular historical moment. **Let us not speak of reconciliation without speaking of reparations and restoration. Let us not speak of healing before we can repair the breach and how we can restore the loss.**

Let us not rush past the loss of this mother's child, this father's child ... someone's beloved son. **Let us not value property over people; let us not protect material objects while human lives hang in the balance.**

Let us not value a false peace over a righteous justice. **Let us not be afraid to sit with the ugliness, the messiness, and the pain that is life in community together.**

Let us not offer clichés to the grieving, those whose hearts are being torn asunder. Instead, let us mourn black and brown men and women, those killed unjustly and illegally every 28 hours. **Let us lament the loss of a teenager, dead at the hands of a police officer who described him as a demon.**

Let us weep at a criminal justice system, which is neither blind nor just. **Let us call for the mourning men and the wailing women, those willing to rend their garments of privilege and ease, and sit in the ashes of this nation's original sin.**

Let us be silent when we don't know what to say. **Let us be humble and listen to the pain, rage and grief pouring from the lips of our neighbors and friends.**

Let us decrease, so that our brothers and sisters who live on the underside of history may increase. **Let us pray with our eyes open and our feet firmly planted on the ground.**

Let us listen to the shattering glass and let us smell the purifying fires, for it is the language of the unheard.

God, in your mercy, show me my own complicity in injustice. Convict me for my indifference. Forgive me when I have remained silent. Equip me with a zeal for righteousness.

Pause for personal reflection

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **Amen.**

(Option 3)

CONFESSIONAL LITANY AND LAMENT COMMEMORATING THE NINE WHO WERE SLAIN AT MOTHER EMANUEL AME CHURCH

They were doing
what we are called to
as they engaged in bible study.

It was Wednesday night—
a stranger walked in,
and these people welcomed him and prayed together:
the Rev. Sharonda Coleman-Singleton, Cynthia Marie Graham Hurd, Susie Jackson, Ethel Lee Lance, the Rev. DePayne Middleton-Doctor, Tywanza Kibwe Diop Sanders,
the Rev. Daniel Lee Simmons, the Rev. Myra Singleton Quarles Thompson,
and the
honorable state senator and pastor of the church, the Rev. Clementa C. Pinckney.

This stranger wanted to ignite a “race war,”
he said, after he shot and killed them,
denying them the very humanity he claimed for himself,
claiming rights and privileges associated with “whiteness.”

Now we are grieved, once again in pain,
burning and anguished, lamenting the horror of evil unleashed.
And so we cry out,
Have mercy, O God, have mercy on us.

Sorrow and heartache have come to us.
Death and mourning have visited us.
We feel far from you, O God, and distant from one another. And so we cry out,
Have mercy, O God, have mercy on us.

Evil besets us in our land.
We acknowledge that our nation is socialized in ways that promote and
normalize colonialization.
We cry out against the horrors and agonies of racism. And so we cry out,
Have mercy, O God, have mercy on us.

The privileged of our nation have benefited from practices that dehumanize
indigenous peoples. We have claimed as “discovery” lands that were not ours.
These lands have been stolen and the nations, that were the original occupants
of these lands, slain. And so we cry out,
Have mercy, O God, have mercy on us.

Tribalism has led to the denial of your presence, O God.
Present generations,
the children whose ancestors were kidnapped and sold into slavery,
those forced to labor not on their own behalf,
still suffer and struggle to live in freedom
while the children of colonizers,
live out of “white privilege,”
denying the fullness of your presence in all people. And so we cry out,
Have mercy, O God, have mercy on us.

Assaults born of greed and murder continue propping up
white privilege that is institutionalized in our church and nation,
preventing us from recognizing
the twin evils of racism and nationalism
still perpetuated among us. And so we cry out,
Have mercy, O God, have mercy on us.

Open our eyes, O God, open our hearts.
Open our ears, O God, open our minds.
Help us to behold one another as you behold us.
Help us to be more firmly rooted
in the practices of the gospel—so that, when we pray,
the way we live will make real the dream of your beloved community within and
among us. And so we cry out,

Have mercy, O God, have mercy on us.

With the help of your mercy and grace,
lead us to think, believe, and change.
May your gospel's transforming power
by the working of the Holy Spirit
be present in us, in our churches,
in our nation and all the nations of the earth.
May it be so. And the people said, "Amen."
Amen.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. O God, where hearts are fearful and constricted, grant courage and hope. Where anxiety is infectious and widening, grant peace and reassurance. Where impossibilities close every door and window, grant imagination and resistance. Where distrust twists our thinking, grant healing and illumination. Where spirits are daunted and weakened, grant soaring wings and strengthened dreams.

Teach us, Lord God, to serve you as you desire, to give and not to count the cost, to fight and not to heed the wounds, to toil and not to seek for rest, to labor and not to ask for reward, except that of knowing that we do your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **AMEN**

Gospel Acclamation

*"Wade in the Water" refrain*x2 (ELW 459)

Readings

Isaiah 40:6-11

Psalm 46:1-6,10

Esphesians 4:25-5:2

Luke 10:23-37

First Reading: Isaiah 40:6-11

⁶ A voice says, "Cry out!"

And I said, "What shall I cry?"

All people are grass,

their constancy is like the flower of the field.

⁷ The grass withers, the flower fades,

when the breath of the Lord blows upon it;

surely the people are grass.

⁸ The grass withers, the flower fades;
but the word of our God will stand forever.

⁹ Get you up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good tidings;^[a]

lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,^[b]
lift it up, do not fear;

say to the cities of Judah,
“Here is your God!”

¹⁰ See, the Lord God comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;

his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.

¹¹ He will feed his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms,
and carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead the mother sheep.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 46:1-6,10

¹ God is our refuge and strength,
an ever-present help in trouble.

² Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way
and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea,

³ though its waters roar and foam
and the mountains quake with their surging.^[c]

⁴ There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy place where the Most High dwells.

⁵ God is within her, she will not fall;
God will help her at break of day.

⁶ Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall;
he lifts his voice, the earth melts.

¹⁰ He says, “Be still, and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth.”

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading: Ephesians 4:25-5:2

²⁵ Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbor, for we are all members of one body. ²⁶ "In your anger do not sin": Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, ²⁷ and do not give the devil a foothold. ²⁸ Anyone who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with their own hands, that they may have something to share with those in need.

²⁹ Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. ³⁰ And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. ³¹ Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. ³² Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. **5** ¹ Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children ² and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel: Luke 10:23-37

²³ Then turning to the disciples, Jesus said to them privately, "Blessed are the eyes that see what you see! ²⁴ For I tell you that many prophets and kings desired to see what you see, but did not see it, and to hear what you hear, but did not hear it."

²⁵ Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he said, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" ²⁶ He said to him, "What is written in the law? What do you read there?" ²⁷ He answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself." ²⁸ And he said to him, "You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live."

²⁹ But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" ³⁰ Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. ³¹ Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. ³² So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³ But a Samaritan while traveling came near him; and when he saw

him, he was moved with pity. ³⁴ He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. ³⁵ The next day he took out two denarii,^[k] gave them to the innkeeper, and said, 'Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend.' ³⁶ Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?" ³⁷ He said, "The one who showed him mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Remembering Those Who Have Died

Congregations may find it appropriate to remember those who died. The following rite has been adapted to be included in the Sunday worship of the assembly. The rite may be used at the gathering, after the hymn of the day or before the prayers of intercession. As each name is read, silence is kept. The leader begins with these or similar words.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the source of all mercy and the God of all consolation, who comforts us in all our sorrows so that we can comfort others in their sorrows with the consolation we ourselves have received from God.

On this somber day, we trust in the expectation of the resurrection to eternal life, as we remember this day those who died (*events of violence or individual names may be inserted*) and who now rest from their labors, especially those family members and friends who are dear to us.

Let us pray. O God, we remember with thanksgiving those who have loved and served you on earth, who now rest from their labors, especially Cynthia Hurd, Susie Jackson, Ethel Lance, the Rev. DePayne Middleton-Doctor, the Hon. Rev. Clementa Pinckney, Tywanza Sanders, the Rev. Daniel Simmons Sr., the Rev. Sharonda Singleton, Myra Thompson.

Keep us in union with all your saints, and bring us with them to the joyous feast of heaven; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

The prayers are prepared locally for each occasion. The following examples may be adapted or used as appropriate.

Called into unity with one another and the whole creation, let us pray for our shared world.

God our truth, through the ages you have spoken through prophets. Stir up in your church a passion for your word revealed in Jesus that following the witness of the Emanuel 9, we as your church, will study the scriptures, show hospitality to the stranger, pray without ceasing, and embody prophetic justice in our communities. Embolden church leaders and all the baptized to remember the lives of the 9, repent of racism and white supremacy, and renew our commitment to your word revealed most fully in Jesus, our way, truth and life. Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Mighty and loving God, we pray for our nation and the plague of racism that threatens, destroys and kills. Root our white supremacy wherever it takes hold. Release its grip on those lured by its false promises. Bring to repentance all who continue to benefit from prejudice and hatred both hidden and revealed. Plant in our hearts and nation a willing spirit open to both truth-telling and healing. Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Immanuell, God with us, you embrace and love those who cry out to you. Lift up all whom hatred has cast down. Embolden those who need courage to speak and act against oppression. Sustain those who are weary from efforts that seem to bring no end to injustice. Comfort parents who are weeping for children, children who have been separated from parents, and families in crises of any kind. Restore hope where it has been lost so that all may trust your love that reaches to the depths of pain and suffering. Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

(other prayers may be inserted) Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

We give you thanks, Holy God, for the faithful life and witness of Clementa, Cynthia, Susie, Ethel, DePayne, Tywanza, Daniel, Sharonda, and Myra, the Emanuel 9. May their faith and witness to your saving love in the Lord, Jesus Christ, inspire all people to ensue paths of justice, courage and self giving love. Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Receive these prayers, O God, and those too deep for words through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen**

Lord's Prayer

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

OR

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Offering Prayer

God our provider,

we bring nothing into this world
and we can take nothing out of it.

Accept the gifts you have first given us,
which we bring to your table,
and with them the offering of our lives.

Nourish us now with the life that really is life,
revealed to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

AMEN

OR

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness, you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered to love the world, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, Our Savior and Lord. **Amen**

Sharing of the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

Share a sign of peace with one another.

Invitation to Communion

Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them.
Come, take your place at the feast.

Prayer after Communion

God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people.

Save us, O God, from ourselves,
from racism often cloaked in pious words,
from the machinations of white supremacy hidden in calls for civility,
from micro aggressions thinly veiled in arrogance,
from apologies when they don't give way to action,
from forgiveness without facing the truth,
from reconciliation without reparation.

Deliver us, O God, from expecting siblings of color to continue to bear this emotional work, which is not theirs to do.

Grateful for the long arc that bends toward justice, we pray:
Grant us wisdom,
give us courage for the facing of these days,
by the power of the Spirit, all for the sake of the kin-dom that we share in Christ Jesus.
Amen.

Blessing

May God give you grace never to sell yourself short,
grace to risk something big for something good, '
and grace to remember that the world is too dangerous
for anything but truth and too small for anything but love.

The Blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son + and Holy Spirit
be with us now and remain with us this day and always. Amen.

Dismissal

Go in peace. Christ is with you.
Thanks be to God.

Possible Hymns:

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me (ELW 325)

There is a Balm in Gilead (ELW 614)

My Hope Is Built (ELW)

Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in our Word (ELW 517)

Give Me Jesus (ELW 770)

We Are Marching in the Light (ELW 866)

O God of Every Nation (ELW 713)

Christ, Be Our Light (ELW 715)

Possible Communion Hymns:

I'm So Glad Jesus Lifted Me (ELW 860)

Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ (ELW 674)

Possible Offering Hymn:

Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us With Your Love (ELW 708)

Images



MOTHER EMANUEL
REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

Remember. Reflect. Refocus.



MOTHER EMANUEL
REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

Remember. Reflect. Refocus.

Resources:

- ELCA Service of Repentance and Mourning
- ELCA Service of Prayer in Times of Violence
- ELCA Litany for Commemorating the Emanuel 9
- AMEC Publishing House, Mother Emanuel Remembrance Toolkit