

## **Project: Change the Narrative Campaign**

*Page 80, WLBU Journal*

“In your group, create a campaign to disrupt, change, or reverse the narrative disclosed in the videos or a harmful narrative”

**Target Audience:** All congregations within the SF Presbytery

**Goal:** To disrupt the narrative that says - People take action only when there is a crisis at hand, like police shooting. Otherwise, we tend to forget.

**Message that will help meet the goal:** Create a worship service/vigil of Remembrance, Repentance and Hope.

### **Strategies used:**

- Develop a service, a BLM vigil in remembrance of George Floyd's murder on May 25th, or to be used at any time during the year, as desired. This is based on the liturgical efforts of Rev. Emily Stockert and the AntiRacism/Social Justice team at First Presbyterian Church, Santa Rosa
- Can be done as an in-person service, inside or outside, with a Zoom component
- This will include luminarias memorializing 160 Black lives that have been lost to police violence. Names are from the traveling art installation “Pray Their Names”, developed by Rev. Katie Morrison. Or perhaps use another symbol with names of victims on them for people to pick up as they enter.

# Service of Remembrance, Repentance and Hope

(May 25, 2022, anniversary of George Floyd's murder)

## Meditation Before the Service:

People take action only when there is a crisis at hand, like a police shooting.  
Otherwise, we tend to forget.

Pick up luminaria (or other symbols) with the name of a victim on it as you enter.

## **PRELUDE**

"Shalom" instrumental by Machiel VanDordrecht

## **WELCOME:**

Some words of orientation to let people know the purpose of the service and what the flow of the event is.

## **CALL TO GATHERING:**

## **OPENING PRAYER:**

## **SONG:**

"Shalom" (sung by song leader)  
words, music, arrangement by Machiel VanDordrecht

## **SCRIPTURE READING OF JUDGEMENT:**

Micah 6: 1- 15

Listen to what the Lord says:

"Stand up, plead my case before the mountains;  
let the hills hear what you have to say.

2 "Hear, you mountains, the Lord's accusation;  
listen, you everlasting foundations of the earth.

For the Lord has a case against his people;  
he is lodging a charge against Israel.

3 "My people, what have I done to you?  
How have I burdened you? Answer me.

4 I brought you up out of Egypt  
and redeemed you from the land of slavery.

I sent Moses to lead you,  
also Aaron and Miriam.

5 My people, remember  
what Balak king of Moab plotted  
and what Balaam son of Beor answered.  
Remember your journey from Shittim to Gilgal,  
that you may know the righteous acts of the Lord."

6 With what shall I come before the Lord

and bow down before the exalted God?  
Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,  
with calves a year old?  
7 Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams,  
with ten thousand rivers of olive oil?  
Shall I offer my firstborn for my transgression,  
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?  
8 He has shown you, O mortal, what is good.

**And what does the Lord require of you?**

**To act justly and to love mercy  
and to walk humbly with your God.**

9 Listen! The Lord is calling to the city—  
and to fear your name is wisdom—  
“Heed the rod and the One who appointed it.  
10 Am I still to forget your ill-gotten treasures, you wicked house,  
and the short ephah, which is accursed?  
11 Shall I acquit someone with dishonest scales,  
with a bag of false weights?  
12 Your rich people are violent;  
your inhabitants are liars  
and their tongues speak deceitfully.  
13 Therefore, I have begun to destroy you,  
to ruin you because of your sins.  
14 You will eat but not be satisfied;  
your stomach will still be empty.  
You will store up but save nothing,  
because what you save I will give to the sword.  
15 You will plant but not harvest;  
you will press olives but not use the oil,  
you will crush grapes but not drink the wine.

#### **SCRIPTURE READING OF CONFESSION:**

Daniel 9:4-5 I prayed to the Lord my God and confessed:

“Lord, the great and awesome God, who keeps his covenant of love with those who love him and keep his commandments, We have sinned and done wrong. We have been wicked and have rebelled: we have turned away from your commands and laws.

#### **WORDS OF LAMENT AND MOURNING:**

Some words spoken on the subject of lament and mourning, of being bystanders to a tragic event, of being bystanders to the historical events of racism, who have not intervened, of a call to solidarity, to justice, to hope and change. (Our Pastor used the story of Saul becoming Paul, his blindness, and then the scales falling from his eyes, which had seen a wrong image, so that he was freed to see God’s children as they truly were.)

**SONG:** Shalom (by Machiel VanDordrecht)

**LITANY FOR THOSE NOT READY FOR HEALING by Rev. Dr Yolanda Pierce:**

(Read by multiple voices)

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 bandaid, 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, or how 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 cliches to the grieving, those whose hearts are being torn asunder.

Instead, Let us mourn black and brown men and women, those killed extrajudicially 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.

Never let me grow accustomed or acclimated to unrighteousness.

**WORDS OF REFLECTION:**

Invitation to reflect on the names of 160 Black lives that have been lost to police violence on the Candles

All the people **say the name** on each one's bag, **in unison** - three times (with a gong sound in between each saying of the names).

Then some words of context for the Scripture:

**SCRIPTURE READING OF REFLECTION:****Jeremiah 31:15**

This is what the Lord says:

"A voice is heard in Ramah,  
mourning and great weeping,  
Rachel weeping for her children  
and refusing to be comforted,  
because they are no more."

**INVITATION INTO A SILENCE OF 9 MINUTES AND 29 SECONDS:  
(gong toll every minute)**

**SONG:** Shalom, sung with a call and response

**SCRIPTURE READING OF HOPE:**

(we used the United Nations Declaration Of Human Rights)

<https://www.un.org/en/about-us/udhr/drafters-of-the-declaration>

**Isaiah 40:28-31**

Have you not known? Have you not heard?

The Lord is the everlasting God,  
the creator of the ends of the earth.  
God does not faint or grow weary;  
His understanding is unsearchable.

The Lord gives power to the faint,  
and strengthens the powerless.  
even youths will faint and be weary,  
and the young will fall exhausted;

but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength,  
they shall mount up with wings like eagles,  
they shall run and not be weary,  
they shall walk and not faint...

**PRAYER OF HOPE:**

(Include a call and response)

**SONG:**

Peace Be with You

words and music by Machiel VanDordrecht

**CHARGE AND BENEDICTION:**

(This is only a remembrance and reflection, and we hope you will continue into action. God's call to justice has always been there... May our dedication to racial justice not be determined on someone having to die! Receive this benediction...)

## Notes:

- This is an outline, open to adaptation by each congregation's style of worship and creativity.
- This service of Remembrance, Repentance, and Hope could be used and adapted to events of violence and tragedy in **all** our marginalized communities. This means additions of other names of victims.
- The outline of this Vigil service is based on the liturgical efforts of Rev. Emily Stockert and the AntiRacism/Social Justice team at First Presbyterian Church, Santa Rosa
- The Litany used is by Rev. Dr. Yolanda Pierce. She is the Dean of the Howard University School of Divinity and a Professor of Religion & Literature and Womanist Theology. She is a speaker, professor, mentor, preacher, writer, and cable news commentator who loves to discuss the intersections of race, religion, gender, and justice. [Yolandapierce.com](http://Yolandapierce.com)
- The list of names used on the luminarias is from the traveling art installation "Pray Their Names", developed by Rev. Katie Morrison. [Pray Their Names - Home | Facebook](#)
- Music included here is written by Machiel VanDordrecht and his permission is given to use it if you wish. We will make the copyrighted words and music (PDF and small MP3 file) available to you.

## Link to Access Music Files

[Peace Be With You: Score in C](#) (PDF)[Peace Be With You Recording](#) (mp3)[Shalom Score](#) (PDF)[Shalom Recording](#) (m4a)

*Note: If you are unable to access any of these files please contact [lindaspencer9@gmail.com](mailto:lindaspencer9@gmail.com)*