



Gathering: Space and Setting Details

*Community space is set with yoga mats, pillows, bean bags- grouped around small, low-to-ground tables. The aim is to facilitate small group seating, on the ground and/or very low to the ground. Yoga mats are available, as well. Actively invite people to take a posture that feels good to them. Laying down, sitting, reclining, etc. **Camera** low to the ground if at all possible. Low tables contain candle(s) in bowl with sand- as though a small fire each group gathers around. Three sample healing prayers printed and placed on each table for reference. Additional paper + pen or marker for writing/drawing struggles. Couches stay along the perimeter for those who need or prefer to stay off the ground, but these are also intentionally set in groups to facilitate small group interaction. | **Presider and/or preacher** utilizes low table and low-seating (as able, based on needs). | Lighting is low.*

NOTE: reading, preaching, etc. all take place on/from ground, among the community.

NOTE: DL/Zoom Folk are invited to turn cameras on so that their faces are part of the room.

Space is set before people enter. People enter, seat as they wish (comfort is the focus). Taize @piano or via recording being played, hummed, based on skillset we have in the room.

When Ready To Begin:

1. Soft music is playing @piano...or recording in absence of musicians.
2. **Assistant** enters and/or invites all to light their candles, take preferred posture for prayer, **in language comfortable to the Assistant.**

Note: FIRST time through service, give people some instructions/info about what's coming.

3. Music continues quietly. Charbel takes his place for Prayers.

Prayers of the People

Bilingual O Lord Hear My Prayer; Prayers in Arabic, sung response in Arabic.
English translation on screens.

Prayers of the People: Sam and Charbel

(sing)

Charbel: We pray that love will be our ultimate goal in all our projects. We pray to know how to spread it and live it in our lives and with all the means that are available to us, so that there is peace in every corner of the world, life remains and continues, and the balance endures in the universe and human dignity is preserved. Bless, O Lord, and increase all those who seek peace and all those who call for a life of love. To You, O Lord, we pray

(sing)

يا رب أصغي لي

Ya rub usghee lee

يا رب أصغي لي

Ya rub usghee lee

حين أدعوك إستجبني

Heena Adouka estajebnee

يا رب أصغي لي

Ya rub usghee lee

يا رب أصغي لي

Ya rub usghee lee

تعال واسمع لي

Taala wasmaa lee

We pray for all people, and especially we place in your hands, O Lord, and under your gaze, the ones who are weaker, whether they suffer from hostility, isolation, or even jealousy and envy. Touch them with your grace and move their hearts with your love so that they can live reconciliation with self and others. To You, O Lord, we pray

(sing)

يا رب أصغي لي

Ya rub usghee lee

يا رب أصغي لي

Ya rub usghee lee

حين أدعوك إستجبني

Heena Adouka estajebnee

يا رب أصغي لي

Ya rub usghee lee

يا رب أصغي لي

Ya rub usghee lee

تعال واسمع لي

Taala wasmaa lee

We pray to you, O Lord, and we ask you to give us peace, which has become almost missing in many ways. We carry our families, our youth, our communities, and the leaders in our church and our country, so that they always strive to become a distinction that seeds goodness and directs towards the best that protects and grows. To You, O Lord, we pray

(sing)

يا رب أصغي لي

Ya rub usghee lee

يا رب أصغي لي

Ya rub usghee lee

حين أدعوك إستجبني

Heena Adouka estajebnee

يا رب أصغي لي

Ya rub usghee lee

يا رب أصغي لي

Ya rub usghee lee

تعال واسمع لي

Taala wasmaa lee

In a time when fog prevailed and the vision is not clear, many people changed their paths and forgot their goals and they don't know how to make healthy choices. We ask you to enlighten us, O Lord, clarify our thoughts and help us to arrange our internal chaos. So that we can start again, remember our baptism that made us your children, be sure that we are responsible and accountable, and our responsibility is to give, love and serve wherever we are. To You, O Lord, we pray

(sing)

يا رب أصغي لي

Ya rub usghee lee

يا رب أصغي لي

Ya rub usghee lee

حين أدعوك إستجبني

Heena Adouka estajebnee

يا رب أصغي لي

Ya rub usghee lee

يا رب أصغي لي

Ya rub usghee lee

تعال واسمع لي

Taala wasmaa lee

Litany for Lent: Presider and Assembly

Pastor/Presider:

Here we gather with open hands, bruised hearts, and bodies we've alienated.
God, Would you guide us toward living fully,
healing and transforming, despite our collective pain and suffering?

**C: We walk in a labyrinthine world,
attempting courageous and loving ways of living.
Careful listening guides us to where Spirit leads,
telling us how to be your prophetic change-makers.
As we yield to the path, Christ is at the center.**

Pastor/Presider:

We stumble and fall so often. And yet
we return, parched and longing for life-giving water.

**C: Overwhelmed by your infinite, steadfast love,
we seek you and your purifying presence,
always praying that our choices support your transforming truth.**

Pastor/Presider:

Alpha and Omega, I Am, Abba, Giver of Life and Destroyer of Death,
we thank you for this season where we return to the depths.

Together we draw down,
down,
down,
going deeper than death,
plummeting through remorse,
moving with and through scars and hurts,
examining blame, damage, and loss,
until we come to openness

C: Amen

Kyrie

Lord, have mercy
Christ, have mercy
Lord, have mercy
Amen

Reading 1: Psalm 51:10-17

10 Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.

11 Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me.

12 Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit.

13 Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you.

14 Deliver me from bloodshed, O God, O God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of your deliverance.

15 O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise.

16 For you have no delight in sacrifice; if I were to give a burnt offering, you would not be pleased.

17 The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

Gospel: Matthew 6:16-21

“And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Maker who is in secret; and your Maker who sees in secret will reward you.

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust[b] consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Sermon: Rev. Dr. Colleen Windham-Hughes

Ashes

Assisting Minister: Instruct students to impose ashes on one another within small groups at tables

Musician: sing Ashes | at end/all done all sing ELW 325 I want Jesus to Walk With Me

I want Jesus to walk with me
I want Jesus to walk with me;
all along my pilgrim journey,
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

In my trials, Lord, walk with me.
In my trials, Lord, walk with me;
when my heart is almost breaking,
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

When I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me.
When I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me;
when my head is bowed in sorrow,
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

Meditation

5 minutes. | Meditative music during this time

Assisting Minister: Invite people to leverage this season for reflection on struggles and prayer. Use body, not just brain: write/crumple, stuff struggles into new font stand

Note: right now no one knows that it's the new font stand, all they know is it's a sculpture a student has made and contributed to the space. Will transform to holding water come Easter.

Small Group Healing Prayer

Zoom co-host: manage breakout rooms on Zoom for this segment. In-person = group talk and prayer.

Text to go into ProPresenter/onto paper for tables as starting prayer language:

Loving God, inspire by your Holy Spirit those who are afraid of losing hope, especially name/s, for whom we now pray. Give *them* a fresh vision of your love, that *they* may find again what *they* fear has been lost. Grant *them* your powerful deliverance; through the one who makes all things new, Jesus Christ our Redeemer.

Amen.

Loving God, I pray for healing & comfort for name. I pray that they find refuge in You in the midst of their pain. May You continue to give them the strength to keep going. To push through the dark moments & know You are with them every step of the way.

Amen.

Dear Lord, I pray for my friend right now. I pray that you will help them with the struggles they are going through in this season. For you know exactly what they need in this moment. Draw near to them and let them feel your presence. Open their eyes, ears, and heart to you.

Amen.

Final Offering

Musician to identify when healing time seems to be finished based on energy of room, then transition into singing Lamb of God/Agnus Dei/Cordero de Dios to signal to room that we're moving on.

Cordero de Dios

Cordero de Dios que quitas el pecado del mundo,
Ten piedad de nosotros, ten piedad de nosotros.

Cordero de Dios que quitas el pecado del mundo,
Ten piedad de nosotros, ten piedad de nosotros.

Cordero de Dios que quitas el pecado del mundo,
Danos la paz, danos la paz
Danos, danos, danos la paz
Danos, danos, danos la paz

Closing Meditation

Assisting Minister reads | Reflection changes each week through Lent

Note: this poet utilizes lowercase god intentionally, be sure to keep it that way on the screen.

Final for ProPresenter:

I just want to remind you
that god made people
called them good
and then drowned them in a flood
that your god
made mistakes
hardened hearts
gambled with Satan
killed his son
struck down followers
and made rules for slavery
and yet you say
his judgment is sound

you
who mock women at clinics
criminalize science
persecute children
cheer war
storm capitols
in the name of god
aren't you a pair
like father
like son

how do you drink Jesus's blood
and spill your neighbor's
how do you baptize repentant
and drown naysayers
when did whiplash
get holy
when did abuse
get trendy
I've never been good
at memorizing things
but I don't remember that
beatitude

blessed are the warmongers
for they shall find
prayers and thoughts
and blessed are the pro-lifers
for they shall find

kettles and pots
and blessed are the Christians
who wave flags
and throw stones
for they will find heaven
underneath others' bones

and I'm pretty sure the god of floods
and horsemen
loves imitation
so don't worry
too much
you're in fine company

but if you decide
one day
to try for decency
remember this:

god may send floods
but you can build boats
dismantling pews
and using the wood
for something that will
save lives

(-Kaitlin Shetler, 2.25.22)

Amen