



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

ELCA Youth Core Leadership Team

#11 6/3/2020

Candletime Online

Opening Ask everyone to find a piece of paper and write one word that they are feeling this week and share it with everyone. You can decorate it, use pictures, symbols, or colors to express your feeling.

Breakout Groups

Opening Prayer

We come to this place, as people blessed by the touch of God; as people enriched by cultures born into and discovered; as people wounded by racism; as people yearning for healing; as people working for the Kingdom. **God be with us.**

We come to this place, with anticipation of the work before us; with an openness to discovery; with a commitment to working for reconciliation; with a willingness to challenge and be challenged; with anticipation of discovery. Christ come near us.

We come to this place, to confess and lament; to pray; to bear witness; to encourage each other to action. Holy Spirit bless our time together. Amen.

Ask? How is it with your soul this week in lieu of everything happening in our country, the racism, the riots, Covid-19, the unknown of what is next?

Read Galatians 3:26-28

26 for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. **27** As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. **28** There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.

Ask What do you think this means?

Ask What is God calling you to do? What are faith-filled steps you have done and will do?

Return to Large Group

Litany

Light a candle or candles as a symbol that Christ's light shines around you and hears your prayers.

After each part of the litany, we will pause for a period of silence. You are invited to share your petitions, either silently, aloud, or in the comments section of the chat.

#1 Leader: Dear sisters and brothers in Christ, we are gathered here to confess the ways in which our society and institutions have supported racism in our past and present. We gather here to repent of our complicity in systems of slavery and oppression, to commit ourselves to opposing the sin of racism in our personal and public lives, and to strive for the creation of Beloved Community. Therefore, I invite you to join me in confessing the wounds of our history, praying for those who are continually impacted by racism and injustice, and also pray that we may be transformed more fully into the Body of Christ.

Pause

#2 We confess as sin the racism of our nation's history:

Pause

#3 We confess as sin the racism and prejudice of the present age:

Pause

#4 We pray for those whose lives are directly impacted by the sin of racism:

Pause

#5 We pray for those who have died at the hands of racism and injustice:

Pause

#6 We pray for the dismantling of racism and systems of oppression in our city, nation, and world:

Pause

#7 We pray for those in positions of power:

Pause

#8 We pray for those who work for justice and peace:

Pause

#9 We pray for the beloved community that we long for in our hearts:

Pause

#10 God, our refuge and strength, you have bound us together in a common life. In all our conflicts, help us to confront one another without hatred or bitterness, to listen for your voice amid competing claims, and to work together with mutual forbearance and respect;

Pause

What prayers do you have for God? Who or What is on your heart to pray for?

Pause

#11 Grant, O God, that your holy and life-giving Spirit may so move every human heart, that barriers which divide us may crumble, suspicions disappear, and hatreds cease; that our divisions being healed, we may live in justice and peace;

God of all peoples of the earth: we pray for an end to racism in all forms, and for an end to the denial that perpetuates white privilege, and for your support for all of those who bear the struggle of internalized racism, and for wisdom to recognize and eradicate the institutional racism in the church, and for the strength to stand against the bigotry and suffering that inhabits the world; for these and all your blessings we pray, O God, Christ Jesus, Holy Spirit. Amen.

Bless one another by marking the sign on the cross on your hand and raising it towards your camera.

Let us love one another because love comes from God. Whoever loves is a child of God and knows God,

The peace that Christ gives is to guide you in the decisions you make for it is to this peace that God has called you together in the one body

With his own body he broke down the wall that separated them. By his death on the cross Christ destroyed their enmity... By means of the cross he united all races into one body... in union with Christ you, too, are being built together with all others into a place where God lives through the Spirit.

Do your best to preserve the unity which the Spirit gives by means of the peace that binds you together. There is one body, one spirit, just as there is one hope to which God has called you.

There is one Lord, one Faith, one Baptism; there is one God who is Lord of all; working through all in all. Amen.

May the God of peace who raised Christ from the dead Strengthen your inner being for every good work. And may the blessing of God Almighty Father, Son and Holy Spirit Rest upon you and dwell within you This day and evermore. Amen



SOURCES:

- *Race and Prayer*, edited by Malcolm Boyd and Chester Talton (Morehouse Publishing, 2003)
- *Seeing the Face of God in Each Other* (The Episcopal Church, 2011)
- *Dismantling Racism: Youth Curriculum* by Katie Mcree and Sally Ulrey (Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta, 2017)
- *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (Augsburg Fortress, 2006)
- The Online Book of Common Prayer: <https://bcponline.org/>
- https://www.lords-prayer-words.com/prayers_before/benediction_prayer.html