



Youth Ministry

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

ELCA Youth Core Leadership Team

#12 6/10/2020

Candletime Online

written by Lisa Msuya, 2020 YCLT, who lives in Minneapolis, MN

Opening Game What keeps you “Sane Routine?” What do you do each day to get you through stressful situations? Ex. Stopping midday and taking a bike ride or getting up, taking a shower, and having a cup of coffee, ex eating healthy meals.

Depart to Small Groups

Share your name, a recent stressful experience you have had and how you responded? Like when you have seen a fight at school, or had an argument with a parent or sibling, or when you have no money and you're out with friends or another stressful situation that has happened recently.

Read Choose a version (NRSV or the Message) or read both

James 1:19-27 from NRSV

⁹ You must understand this, my beloved:^[a] let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; ²⁰ for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. ²¹ Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls.

²² But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. ²³ For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves^[b] in a mirror; ²⁴ for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. ²⁵ But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing.

²⁶ If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. ²⁷ Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

James 1:19-27 from the Message

¹⁹⁻²¹ Post this at all the intersections, dear friends: Lead with your ears, follow up with your tongue, and let anger straggle along in the rear. God's righteousness doesn't grow from human anger. So throw all spoiled virtue and cancerous evil

in the garbage. In simple humility, let our gardener, God, landscape you with the Word, making a salvation-garden of your life.

²²⁻²⁴ Don't fool yourself into thinking that you are a listener when you are anything but, letting the Word go in one ear and out the other. Act on what you hear! Those who hear and don't act are like those who glance in the mirror, walk away, and two minutes later have no idea who they are, what they look like.

²⁵ But whoever catches a glimpse of the revealed counsel of God—the free life!—even out of the corner of his eye, and sticks with it, is no distracted scatterbrain but a man or woman of action. That person will find delight and affirmation in the action.

²⁶⁻²⁷ Anyone who sets himself up as “religious” by talking a good game is self-deceived. This kind of religion is hot air and only hot air. Real religion, the kind that passes muster before God the Father, is this: Reach out to the homeless and loveless in their plight, and guard against corruption from the godless world.

Read Philippians 2:2 NRSV

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, ² make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind.

Proverbs 14:29 NRSV

Whoever is slow to anger has great understanding, but one who has a hasty temper exalts folly.

Ephesians 4:2-3 NRSV with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, ³ making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Ask? What do these scriptures have to do with us today? How do you relate the current situations in our society with these words written thousands of years ago?

Ask? Share a time when you have you seen racism firsthand. How did you respond?

Ask? How have you responded to the heightened fight against racism in our society over the past few months?

Ask? What do you feel our response should be to police brutality?

Ask? As a Lutheran and Christian, what is your heart telling you to do these days to fight racism and strive for equality for all?

Ask? What changes do you hope to see and actions you are willing to take?

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

Take a moment to **pause** in silence. Feel God's presence with you.

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

Pray together Ask everyone to share one petition.

Return to the Large Group

Closing Prayer

Dear God, Bless all of us online today. There are very real hurts that some are coping with and needs of others that we ache to help with and meet. Be with those who are sick with Covid -19 Virus and those who will get it. Comfort the families who have lost loved ones because of this disease. We pray for our nation today. We pray for those who have been harmed because of racism and police brutality. Comfort the families who have lost loved ones because of racism. We ask that you help us follow your Word and respond as you would have us to do. Take that stirring of love that we feel for each other and guide our steps to be faithful friends and extensions of Your love. As we lift our hearts to You, we ask that You bless each of our families, our synods, our congregations we represent, and the communities that we live. We ask for your assurance that you are always with us, even in all the changes that are happening so fast in our lives. We remember your promises and we cannot wait to see the new things you are going to do in our lives, in our country, and in our world. Amen.

And now receive a blessing.

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

Go forth into the world in peace;
be of good courage;
hold fast that which is good;
render to no one evil for evil;
strengthen the fainthearted;
support the weak;
help the afflicted;
honor everyone;
love and serve the Lord,
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

