

Resources for Christian Worship by

Congregate Charlottesville

www.congregateville.com [@congregateville](https://twitter.com/congregateville)

We hope these resources will help your community remember the tragic events of last August and also allow your community to repent for complicity in white supremacy, honor the resiliency of marginalized communities, and enter streams of repair.

Dearest friends in Christ,

We are grateful for your prayers and solidarity as we approach the one year anniversary of our resistance to white supremacist violence. In Charlottesville, we continue organizing to dismantle white supremacy in all of its forms. Those of us who claim the Way of Jesus, particularly those of us who are white Christians, continue to grapple with our complicity in white supremacy. We know that as individuals and as communities we must repent. We must repent for the ways we failed to show up last summer and the ways we continue to contribute to oppression, both knowingly and unknowingly.

We repent because our faith tradition demands it. We repent knowing that nothing can separate us from the love of Christ. We repent hoping that our vulnerability will lead us toward transformation. We repent and hold one another in our failures and our fears.

We repent and then we keep moving, learning more about justice and liberation. We begin to repair the harm we've done. We look for those thin places where God's Kin-dom is breaking into our world and we situate ourselves right there, at the intersection of discomfort and possibility. We continue to acknowledge our complicity in white supremacy.

Please join us on August 12th in repenting, repairing and reorienting our lives toward justice and liberation.

With love,

Rev. Smash, Congregate Charlottesville

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Call to Worship

One: Let us come and gather together in community. Let us bring our full selves. Let us bring our despair, bring our fear, bring our remorse, and bring our hope.

Many: We gather to remember, we gather to repent, we gather to repair.

One: Let us gather together in the name of the one who binds us all together. Let us call on the Way of Jesus. Let us place ourselves in God's story of reconciliation and transformation.

Many: We gather to remember, we gather to repent, we gather to repair.

One: Let us gather together knowing that we have work to do. Let us acknowledge our complicity in injustice. Let us turn our hearts and our minds toward sacrifice and radical living.

Many: We gather to remember, we gather to repent, we gather to repair.

One: Let us gather together with a yearning for restoration. Let us commit our lives to enacting God's dream of a mended creation. Let us call on God to move us.

Many: We gather to remember, we gather to repent, we gather to repair.

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Call to Confession/Confession of Sins

As disciples of Jesus Christ, we are called to struggle against everything that leads us away from the love of God and neighbor.

We confess our complicity in white supremacy and we acknowledge that white supremacy is not what God intends for us.

We have betrayed our neighbors with our lack of urgency and our desire for decorum.

We repent for the ways we have failed to show up, we repent for the ways we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

We have refused to sacrifice our comfort, our wealth and our reputation when the lives of others have been on the line.

Oh God, accept our repentance today, for the ways we have neglected the humanity of those who suffer under the evil system of white supremacy.

Let our indifference to injustice and our avoidance of culpability end here and now, and may we devote our lives to honoring the full humanity and the full God-like-ness of our black and brown siblings.

Prayer of Thanksgiving/Honoring of Resiliency

God who does not forget, we give thanks for the indigenous peoples, on whose land we now inhabit. We repent for the violent destruction of their communities and we repent for believing that this land is ours. We give thanks for indigenous resiliency in the face of atrocity. May we honor and acknowledge indigenous communities.

God who does not forget, we give thanks for the African-American community, people who have survived and thrived in the midst of white terror. We repent for stripping humans of their humanity and we repent for ignoring continuing oppression. We give thanks for the resiliency of blackness in the face of white supremacy. May we honor and acknowledge African-American communities.

God who does not forget, we give thanks for immigrants and refugees, who demonstrate the meaning of courage. We repent for our American exceptionalism and nationalism that cause us to harm and turn away those who should be our neighbor and we repent for our refusal to share our abundance. We give thanks for the resiliency of immigrants in the face of violent national fervor. May we honor and acknowledge our immigrant neighbors.

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Further Worship Resources/Prayers:

Worship resources addressing racism, from the United Church of Christ:

http://www.ucc.org/sacred-conversation_worship-resources

Resources for congregations and pastors from the Presbyterian Church USA:

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/story/resources-congregations-pastors-stand-racism-white-supremacy/>

Worship Resources about Racism, from the Christian Reformed Church in North America:

<https://network.crcna.org/worship/worship-resources-about-racism-and-racial-reconciliation>

A Prayer for Charlottesville, by Rev. Dr. Jill Duffield:

<https://pres-outlook.org/2017/08/a-prayer-for-charlottesville/>

A PRAYER FROM THE STREETS OF CHARLOTTESVILLE, SEMINARIAN LAUREN GRUBAUGH:

<https://allsaints-pas.org/a-prayer-from-the-streets-of-charlottesville-from-seminarian-lauren-grubaugh/>

A Litany and Prayer for Charlottesville, by Rev. Fran Pratt:

<https://cbfblog.com/2017/08/13/a-litany-and-prayer-for-charlottesville/>

A PRAYER FOR CHARLOTTESVILLE (AND US), by Emily Pilkington:

<http://everysquareinch.net/a-prayer-for-charlottesville-and-us/>

Prayer for the peace of Charlottesville, from Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary:

<https://www.ambs.edu/publishing/blog/1586578/prayer-for-the-peace-of-charlottesville>

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Resources for Repair:

Charlottesville Community Resilience Fund: <https://secure.actblue.com/donate/resilience-fund>

The Case for Reparations, by Ta-Nehisi Coates:

<https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2014/06/the-case-for-reparations/361631/>

White Privilege Curriculum by the UCC: <http://privilege.uccpages.org>

SURJ Faith, bringing racial justice into congregations and faith communities:

<http://www.showingupforracialjustice.org/surj-faith.html>

A Vision for Black Lives: <https://policy.m4bl.org>

Sacred Conversations to End Racism: http://www.ucc.org/sacred_conversations_to_end_racism

Anti-Racism Resource Packet:

<http://newsite.karenhousecw.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/Anti-Racism-Packet.pdf>

