

Overcoming Religious/Cultural Violence Worship Materials



Read Galatians 5 vv.22-25

A bowl of mixed fruits may be placed in the centre of the worship space.

Imagine each of the 'fruits' of the Spirit as real fruit...

What would they look like, taste like?...

Which of the fruits do you find most attractive?... Why?...

Which of the fruits do you find least attractive?... Why?...

Think of a situation of conflict in your community between people of different culture of background...

- which of the fruits would be most nourishing in this situation?....
- how may it be grown?...
- what single practical action can you take in the next week to nurture that particular fruit?...

Holy God, of holy dreaming,

through your breath of life you bring creation into being.

You shape the myriad forms and features of this land,
and form its rainbow of many colours, cultures and peoples.

Through your redeeming love you give us peace
in Jesus Christ, your only Son, our Lord.

You reconcile us together in One Body by the Cross,
giving us grace for our journey of healing.

Through your Holy Spirit you enable us to grow and to flourish in your service.

You bring forth fruits of love and grains of joy.

In this Decade to Overcome Violence,

help us, we pray, to prune back all which brings destruction,
and to turn to your renewing springs:

that we may seek you in all we meet, and cultivate a culture of peace.

Holy God, of holy dreaming

Breathe through us, and in your mercy ***Hear our prayer***

O God, when the dignity of another is not respected,
nor their right to equal treatment and a fair go;

grant us a crumb of your healing and forgiveness.

When there is name-calling, racist thoughts and words
and a failure to honour the other;

grant us a crumb of your healing and forgiveness.

When cultural property is stolen,

paintings, stories and songs

made prostitutes for others to use;

grant us a crumb of your healing and forgiveness

Grant us your crumbs,

and transform them by your Spirit into a rich banquet for all to enjoy. **Amen**

SEEDS OF PEACE

Prayer for the Journey of Healing (NATSIEC):

Almighty and loving God, you who created ALL people in your image,
lead us to seek your compassion as we listen to the
stories of our past.

You gave your only Son, Jesus, who died and rose again
so that sins will be forgiven.

We place before you the pain and anguish of
dispossession of land, language, lore, culture and family
kinship that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
have experienced.

We live in faith that all people will rise from the depths
of despair and hopelessness.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families have
endured the pain and loss of loved ones, through the
separation of children from their families.

We are sorry and ask your forgiveness.

Touch the hearts of the broken, homeless and afflicted
and heal their spirits.

In your mercy and compassion, walk with us as we
continue our journey of healing to create a future that is
just and equitable. Lord, you are our hope. **Amen.**

O God Source of Life, Creator
of Peace.

Help your children, anguished
and confused,

to understand the futility of
hatred and violence

and grant them the ability to
stretch across political,

religious and national
boundaries

so they may confront horror
and fear

by continuing together in the
search for justice, peace, and
truth,

With every fibre of our being,
we beg You, O God, to help

us not to fail nor falter. Amen
(Rabbi H. Rolando Matalon)

God is relationship. Recognising each person as made in the image and likeness of God
let us therefore honour all people as having dignity and worth.

Open our eyes that we may see the beauty of each faith, culture and people.

Open our hearts that we may recognise the gifts that are present in the variety of our
differences. God hear us. *God graciously hear us*

Open our ears to hear the stories of others. Open our minds to see all for whom you came.

God hear us. *God graciously hear us*

Help us to cross the boundaries of our fears and our prejudices. Unite us and restore
peace in our world. Bless us so that we only see each other as you have already seen us.

God hear us. *God graciously hear us*

We pray this in the name of Jesus the Christ. **Amen** (prayer adapted from RDP resources)

Lord of all cultures,

born among us in every time and place,
your image dwells in every person who walks the earth,
your dignity in each race and gender.

Grant to us eyes to see, ears to hear, arms to link, and tongues to tell,
the glorious liberty of the children of God.

Strengthen the threads of love between us,
and weave a fresh tapestry that cannot be unravelled,
that we may walk ever onwards together
in the freedom of your transforming Spirit. **Amen.**

Suggested Song: Monica Brown *One People, One Land*