

#ResistHarm Worship Planning Worksheet: January 2020

RESIST

We invite you to incorporate the work of resisting harm into the worship life of your church or group. This worksheet is a tool for use by individuals or groups, as a starting point for finding ways to incorporate #ResistHarm into regular Sunday worship, small group meetings, or vigils and special services; we encourage you to be prayerful and creative as you seek to be faithful to your local context. In the postures of worship, we believe God can do incredible work with us as we resist harm and proclaim the expansive grace of Jesus Christ.

Ideas for January:

New Year - Include a Covenant Renewal prayer in a special service or on January 5; remember that our authority comes from and through God, not the Discipline.

Epiphany (Jan 5) - Celebrate how God shows up in unexpected ways that expand our world.

Baptism of Our Lord (Jan 12) - Lift up the words of our baptismal vows, including to "resist evil, injustice and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves."

Human Relations Day/MLK Day (Jan 19) - Remember that the work to overcome exclusion and injustice against LGBTQ+ persons intersects and overlaps with our work of overcoming racism.

Ecumenical Day (Jan 26) - Mark the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity with a prayer for resisting harm in the whole christian church.

"On entering the house, [the Magi] saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage; ...And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their country by another road.'" - Matthew 2:11a, 12 (NRSV)

At Christmas, United Methodists celebrate the birth of Jesus as the revelation of God's inclusive, redemptive love made visible in human flesh. According to John's gospel, God sent Jesus - the light of the world - so that all of humanity can know the fullness of God's love.

What are your local church's traditions during January? How do they connect to our call to resist harm?

*What images do you connect with the call to resist harm?
What visuals could you use in your worship space?*

Who in your community could be involved in leadership this month? What diverse voices can you lift up? Who has a life story that connects to your worship themes?

Want to know more about how to connect "resistance" to our Christian faith?

Check out study resources at www.resistharm.org/education. Invite a small group to read and discuss about the long and deep connection between the two.

Whether you begin from lectionary texts or not, we encourage you to prayerfully consider your context. What words, songs, prayers and rituals proclaim God's grace in sacred resistance where you are? What is God calling you to include?

January 5

Lectionary Texts:

Isaiah 60:1-6

Psalms 72:1-7, 10-14

Ephesians 3:1-12

Matthew 2:1-12

Ideas for January 5 (Epiphany, Covenant Renewal Service)

January 12

Lectionary Texts:

Isaiah 42:1-9

Psalms 29

Acts 10:34-43

Matthew 3:13-17

Ideas for January 12 (Baptism of the Lord)

January 19

Lectionary Texts:

Isaiah 49:1-7

Psalms 40:1-11

I Corinthians 1:1-9

John 1:29-42

Ideas for January 19 (Human Relations Day, MLK Day Weekend)

January 26

Lectionary Texts:

Isaiah 9:1-4

Psalms 27:1, 4-9

I Corinthians 1:10-18

Matthew 4:12-23

Ideas for January 26 (Ecumenical Sunday; Week of Prayer for Christian Unity)