

#ResistHarm Worship Planning Worksheet: March 2020

LAMENT

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.

Worship Ideas in March (Lament)

Lent – Consider making space for lamentation during this season of repentance, fasting and preparation. Adding prayers and space for lament can create opportunities for self-examination and reflection that is both personal and community-based.

Women's History Month – Honor women's voices (including trans women and queer folk) through liturgy, poetry, song, liturgical leadership, biographies, and more. Liturgical resources available through [COSROW \(gcsrw.org\)](http://COSROW.gcsrw.org)

World Day of Prayer (March 6) – Follow this call to [ecumenical prayer for the world](#) and remember the harm caused against LGBTQ persons globally.

UMCOR Sunday (March 22) – Lament the suffering of people who lack [food, shelter, safety, and peace](#); draw connections between our call to provide relief to our call to resist harm.

Worship gives space for the honest, difficult work of lamentation. Through prayer, song, story and scripture, we can give voice to the brokenness and injustice not only for the UMC's anti-LGBTQ policies and practice, but for the complex web of intersectional injustice in our church and world.

What are your local church's traditions during March and during Lent? How do they connect to our call to resist harm by sharing lament?

*What images can assist with the work of lamenting?
What visuals could you use in your worship space?*

Who in your community could be involved in leadership this month? What other local churches can you partner with? Who has a life story that connects to your worship themes? What specific laments can you lift to God?

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?

March 1

Lectionary Texts:
Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7
Psalm 32
Romans 5:12-19
Matthew 4:1-11

Ideas for March 1 (1st Sunday in Lent)

March 8

Lectionary Texts:
Genesis 12:1-4a
Psalm 121
Romans 4:1-5, 13-17
John 3:1-17

Ideas for March 8 (2nd Sunday in Lent)

March 15

Lectionary Texts:
Exodus 17:1-7
Psalm 95
Romans 5:1-11
John 4:5-42

Ideas for March 15 (3rd Sunday in Lent)

March 22

Lectionary Texts:
1 Samuel 16:1-13
Psalm 23
Ephesians 5:8-14
John 9:1-41

Ideas for March 22 (4th Sunday in Lent)

March 29

Lectionary Texts:
Ezekiel 37:1-14
Psalm 130
Romans 8:6-11
John 11:1-45

Ideas for March 29 (5th Sunday in Lent)