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Chicago Religious Leadership Network on Latin America

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Structure and General Ideas:

Introductory Questions for Consideration:

1. The structure of any worship service, reflection, or devotion will give direction to the goals of the event itself. What would be the goal of your worship/devotion? Is it a call to action? Or is it a more contemplative worship/devotion focused on the conversion to the neighbor?
2. Is the devotion/worship service going to be within your faith's traditions, or is it going to be more interfaith oriented?
3. Is it something that is going to be more integrated into a traditional worship/devotion, or will it be added on to an existing structure?
4. How long would you like the devotion/worship service to last?
5. How many are going to be attending?

General Ideas about a worship service or devotion surrounding immigration:

1. Language
 - a. **ALWAYS use humanizing language**
 - b. **Please do not use any language that would describe a migrant as less than human or comparing migrants to nature/natural forces** (e.g. "flood", "wave", "illegal alien", "a pack of immigrants", etc.)
2. Music
 - a. Song is always something that can call us together. Therefore, it might be nice to start with a song or two
 - b. Below, there are a list of songs that you can use or gain inspiration from
3. Scriptural reflections
 - a. Begin with a reading of your faith's scripture/holy text and ask how it might apply to the contemporary problems of migration today
 - b. This can be done in a small group, where everyone shares, or done in a larger setting where it is part of a larger service
4. Testimonials and Speakers
 - a. Consider having someone from your congregation/faith community speak or inviting someone in to speak about migration.
5. Prayers
 - a. Does your congregation/faith community have any prepared resources surrounding immigration?
 - b. Prayer cards or sheets with prayers on them are often good resources to hand out so people can rededicate themselves to justice for migrants often



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- c. With an interfaith celebration, people of various faiths can be welcomed to pray from their traditions
6. Images
 - a. Would you like images involved in the service?
 - b. Images should not be used for shock value, but for real engagement with the issues surrounding immigration.
 - c. Images can be very influential. Thus, keep in mind how people are displayed within an image.
 7. Calls to Action
 - a. Many worship services/devotions focused on justice often have a call to action at the end of a service/devotion.
 - b. It is perhaps a good idea to get educated

Examples:

Interfaith Immigrant Justice Vigil (Fourth Presbyterian Church):

- 5:15 p.m. Opening Music
- 5:30 p.m. Speakers, prayers, and singing
- 7:00 p.m. Call to Action
- 7:05 p.m. ArtWorks Image projected, Presentes of immigrants
- 7:25 p.m. Closing Prayer and Music

Chicago Jewish Justice Circle Passover Discussion Questions:

- Traditional Passover, preceded or followed by discussion questions for reflection (asked at any time before or after):
 1. What is your family's (biological or chosen) immigration story or experience with immigration, migration, forced migration?
 2. What stories of immigration in your family are told and which ones are not? Why do you think some of these stories are emphasized and why do you think some are forgotten?
 3. What is a physical, emotional, or spiritual journey you have taken (or are still on) since last Passover? What have been some challenges of that journey? What have been some rewards?

PCUSA Reflection and Prayer for World Refugee Day

- Scripture Reading from Mt. 2:13-15
- Scripture Reading from Ruth 1:15-18
- Pre-written reflection (~250 words long)
- Closing prayer reflecting on migration in scripture and migration today

International Migrants Day 2015 Worldwide #IamaMigrant Candlelight Vigil to Remember

- Candles lit in remembrance of migrants who passed away on their journeys. Numbers of deceased read off, candles lit in memory. Our Father/Lord's Prayer said at the end. (One could very easily change the ending prayer to something from their tradition or another prayer, if they so desire)

Leadership Conference of Women Religious Outline for Contemplative Dialogue (adapted for immigration)

(NOTE: perhaps better for smaller discussion groups of 5-10 people)

1. Period of Silence
2. Brief sharing of how each person standing on immigration right now



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3. Building a container
 - a. Leader poses a question about immigration (e.g. “where does our faith call us to do on this issue?” One could read scripture as well) and each participant responds briefly with a brief pause after each person speaks. Goal is to create a space where participants encounter each other on a deeper level and build trust
4. Contemplative Dialogue
 - a. Leader poses the question that focuses the dialogue to a more specific question about immigration
 - b. Period of silence
 - c. Dialogue begins. Each person is allowed to speak, but only do so once before anyone speaks a second time.
 - d. Build on one another’s insights and listen carefully to each person, being attentive to the emergence of shared wisdom in dialogue
 - e. Dialogue stops when there seems to be a natural ending. Typically no more than 1 hour
5. Conclusion
 - a. The Leader invites each person to share how they experienced the session and what the person noticed about what was being created through the dialogue

More in-depth resources:

Alianza America Interfaith tool kit to Defend Temporary Protected Status

- Specifically for Temporary Protected Status, but one can find inspiration for other causes through it (e.g. refugees)
- <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1jVCgV9kqnn1jV3KsJUbcIQHSIVMD7j0vJkZ8KZGnENQ/edit#heading=h.c0mpo5gvg48q>

Interfaith Immigration Coalition Holiday and Holy Day resources

- <http://www.interfaithimmigration.org/2016/10/13/religious-holiday-resources/>

PCUSA Migrant Sunday Liturgy:

- <http://www.interfaithimmigration.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/Southside-Migrant-Sunday-Liturgy.pdf>

HIAS Haggadah

- Whole Haggadah
- https://www.hias.org/sites/default/files/hias_haggadah19-download-bwfinal.pdf

A Racial Justice Haggadah for Pesach

- Whole Haggadah plus additional explanations
- <https://jfrei.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/Mixed-Multitudes-Haggadah-for-Download.pdf>

United Church of Christ Worship Resources

- Reflection on Faith and Immigration with reflection questions
- http://www.ucc.org/justice_immigration_worship_faith-and-immigration

Glasgow Anglican resource on Pastoral Theological Reflection



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- Pastoral Theological Reflection can be a great way for a smaller group to constantly review where they are at ministerially and spiritually on a given issue, which is migration in this case
- <https://glasgow.anglican.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/Pastoral-Cycle-resources1.pdf>

LCWR Contemplative Dialogue Resources

- As mentioned above, it is general, but can be attuned to the issue of immigration in a contemplative manner
- <https://lwr.org/contemplative-dialogue>

Annunciation House Prayers and Reading Guides

- Includes a possible structure, as well as prayers, readings, and songs
- <https://annunciationhouse.org/advocacy/prayer-guide/justice-for-immigrants/>

Catholic Legal Immigration Network, INC. Las Posadas Navideñas

- Guide to a Posada celebration
- <https://cliniclegal.org/sites/default/files/resources/posadas/posadas.pdf>

USCCB Justice for Immigrants World Refugee Day 2018 toolkit

- Includes prayers, information, and samples
- <https://justiceforimmigrants.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/WRD-2018-Toolkit.pdf>

American Baptist Churches USA

- <https://www.abc-usa.org/2017/03/abc-immigration-taskforce-resource-available-in-english-and-spanish/>

United Methodist Church Discipleship Ministries Courageous Conversations

- <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/courageous-conversations-about-immigration>

Unitarian Universalist Immigration Toolkit

- <https://www.uua.org/immigration/worship>

Evangelical Immigration Table Church Leader Resource

- <http://evangelicalimmigrationtable.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/churchleaderguidetoimmigration.pdf>
- Another resource is their prayer partner guide, which can be found here: <http://evangelicalimmigrationtable.com/category/prayer-partner/>

Marquette Center for Peacemaking - Pareesa Sharazi

- <https://www.marquette.edu/peacemaking/>



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Songs:

Introductory Questions for Consideration:

1. Within the faith? Or interfaith?
2. How many songs would you like to sing?
3. Are you looking for songs for people to sing along with? Or songs sung by a choir or solo?
4. Where are the songs in the structure of the devotion/worship service?
5. What is the theme/tone of the event (somber, joyful, meditative, call-to-action, etc.)?

Some Quick Song Ideas (links to songs provided where possible):

“Roll Jordan, Roll” (African American spiritual (text adapted) Ysaye Barnwell’s teaching) (were not able to find a link)

“Evil of Detention” (Tune: Battle of Jericho; African-American Spiritual; adapted verses) (were not able to find a link)

“We stand for Justice” by Jeremy Mage <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hd6vHpcZ8WU>

“Courage” (Adapted from a South African song) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hd6vHpcZ8WU>

“Paz y Libertad” (Text by Jose-Luis Orozco) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qsJ4L16b8ns>

“Lord, When Were You a Stranger?” (Tune: AURELIA 7.6.7.6 D Samuel Sebastian Wesley, 1864 (“The Church’s One Foundation”)) Text: Copyright © 2013 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette.) (were not able to find a link)

“We shall Overcome” (African American spiritual) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2VnaY2uXCJQ>

“Nothing Can Trouble - Nada Te Turbe” (Tune: Jacques Berthier, 1986. Text: attr. Teresa of Avila, 16th cent.; para. Taize Community: 1995. Copyright 1991 Les Presses de Taize (GIA publications))
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b_1Z27AjjJE

“Would you Harbor Me?” by Sweet Honey in the Rock <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i0XBXJjoXJ4>

“Are we a Nation?” by Sweet Honey in the Rock
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5vOwAfLD_ag&list=RDlvcqXokV0ok&index=12

“Marching into the Light (Marchando hacia la Luz)” by Andres Useche
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lvcqXokV0ok>

“Great God of Earth and Heaven” by Shirley Erena Murray
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oOuxISGMv0A>

“Go Make a Difference” by Steve Angrisano and Tom Tomaszek <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CJ9-toxYm1M>

“Welcome” by John Fromer <https://youtu.be/m0Fjy2nKs5Q>



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Scripture Readings, Poetry, Prayers:

Introductory Questions for Consideration:

1. Within a single faith? Or interfaith?
2. Are the readings for responsorial or directly read to an audience?
3. How many people would be reading?
4. Based upon the theme/tone of the devotion/worship service, what pacing would you like the reading to be at?

A Short List of Possible Scripture Readings:

Book of Leviticus 19:33-24, 25:35

Book of Malachi 3:5

Gospel of Matthew 25:38,40

Letter to the Hebrews 13:2

Qur'an 16:41

Qur'an 24:22

An-Nisa 4:36

Al Anfal 8:72

“Prayer for Tolerance” by Education for Justice

Dear Lord, we who are divided

Unloving, prejudiced at times

Inclined to misunderstanding, intolerant.

Make us instead united

Loving, open to learning

Understanding and forgiving, tolerant.

May your Spirit be present in us as you are in all peoples.

“Prayer for a Diverse Community”

- <https://ursulinesmsj.org/news/prayer-for-a-diverse-community>

“Small Random Acts of Peacemaking” by John van de Laar

- <http://sacredise.com/prayers/type/intercession/small-random-acts-of-peacemaking/>

“Three Gifts for a Truly Welcoming Chicago: A Litany for Epiphany” by CRLN

- <https://crln.org/a-sanctuaryforall-litany-on-epiphany/>

“Shine” by Andrea Gibson

- <https://ohandreaagibson.tumblr.com/shine>

“La Ruta de Mujeres” by Rev. Delle McCormick

- <http://www.ucc.org/justice/immigration/worship/DMcCormickReflection.html>

“Protest” by Ella Wheeler Wilcox

- <https://www.poets.org/poetsorg/poem/protest>



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“We Cannot Merely Pray” by Rabbi Jack Riemer

- <https://reformjudaism.org/practice/prayers-blessings/we-cannot-pray-you>

“Listen, Christians,” from James Cone book *Speaking the Truth*

- On page number 113 (Second pdf page)
- <https://jamesconesspeakingthetruth.files.wordpress.com/2013/03/james-cone-speaking-the-truth-08.pdf>

“What We Believe, or The Dream of God” by Dom Helder Camara

- <https://disarmnowplowshares.wordpress.com/2011/02/04/what-we-believe-or-the-dream-of-god/>

“Refugees” by Brian Bilston

- <https://brianbilston.com/2016/03/23/refugees/>
- NOTE: read top down, then bottom up

More information:

United Church of Christ Biblical References to Immigration:

- A very comprehensive list
- http://www.ucc.org/justice_immigration_worship_biblical-references-to

Catholic Health Association Welcoming the Stranger:

- An example of a responsorial psalm (Ps. 107), which could be used for other readings too.
- <https://www.chausa.org/docs/default-source/mission/welcoming-the-stranger--a-prayer-for-solidarity-with-those-who-are-migrants.pdf?sfvrsn=0>

Rabbi Brant Rosen’s Blog:

- Includes many poems and scripture rewrites
- <https://ynefesh.com/>



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More information/resources:

Aurora Levins Morales:

<http://www.auroralevinsmorales.com/>

Ricardo Levins Morales:

<https://www.rlmartstudio.com/>

HIAS Haggadah:

<https://www.hias.org/passover>

Art Works Project

<http://www.artworksprojects.org>

Interfaith Immigration Coalition

<http://www.interfaithimmigration.org/>

Interfaith Worker Justice Immigration Action Resources

<http://www.iwj.org/resources/immigration-action-resources>

ARISE Chicago

<https://www.arisechicago.org>

Catholic Alliance of People Seeking Asylum, We can pray

<https://capsa.org.au/i-can-pray/>

Sisters and Brothers of Immigrants

<https://www.sistersandbrothersofimmigrants.com/immigration-and-faith>

CRLN

<http://www.crln.org>

Composed by Matthew Broeren

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