



National Religious Campaign Against Torture

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Christian Worship Resources

For use during Torture Awareness Month

Note: Please adapt as appropriate for your own tradition.

Call to Worship

Leader: It is good to give thanks to the LORD, to sing praises to your name, O Most High.

Congregation: It is good to give thanks to the LORD, to declare your steadfast love in the morning, and your faithfulness by night, O Most High.

Leader: For you, O LORD, have made me glad by your work;

Congregation: At the works of your hands I sing for joy.

Based upon Psalm 92

Prayer of Confession

(Unison) Gracious and loving God, we have failed to live as your resurrection people. We have spoken when we should have listened; we have been silent when we should have raised our voices. We have strayed from hope and grown weary in the constant struggle for justice. Your Holy Spirit has been active in our midst, but we have let fear sway our actions. For any acts of injustice that have been undertaken in our name, this day we especially remember acts of torture, forgive us of our silence and our acquiescence to fear. Take any silence and shame and turn it into action for your beloved community.

Silence

(Leader) Almighty and merciful God, restore us to your wholeness. As you have forgiven us, may we have the strength to forgive ourselves and others. Continually open our hearts to your call in our lives, through the grace of Christ. Amen.

Petition for inclusion in period of Intercessory Prayer

Let us pray

For those who have been tortured and those who have engaged in torture...

Benediction

May the grace of Christ – who spoke with the Samaritan woman at the well, the stranger – may the grace of Christ strengthen you for acts of mercy and justice.

May the love of God – who creates us each in God’s own holy image – may the love of God guide your interactions with fellow humanity and all of creation.

And may the comfort of the Holy Spirit – who does not abandon one who is suffering – may the comfort of the Holy Spirit bring you hope in each new day.

Amen.