

Vanderbilt Divinity School
Community Worship Service
“Honoring the Sacred Within and Beyond Us”
Wednesday, October 16, 2013
10:10 a.m.



RESISTANCE

GATHERING – “Si tuvieras fe / If you only have faith,” *Glory To God* Hymnal 176

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CORITO / WORSHIP SONG** – “Somos uno en Cristo / We are one in Christ,” *Glory To God* Hymnal 322

PSALM 137

A MODERN PSALM 137 - Lyrics of “El Son de las Tres Décadas” by Marisela Verena

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (at unison)

Holy One, we confess that sometimes we reject those who are different to us and we hurt them with words or actions. Merciful God, we confess that we have used your name to conquer or to exercise power over others and diminish human dignity. We confess that as part of the church we have been complicit in the expansion of empires and we have distorted Christ using him as a blueprint for

supremacy. God in your mercy forgive us and make us new so we can be open to others, embrace difference, and become a bigger family characterized by love.

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

***CORITO / WORSHIP SONG** - "Cuando el pobre / When the Poor One," United Methodist Hymnal 434

A RECLAIMED VERSION OF THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Lady, Our Mother by Alba Onofrio

Chorus:

Our Mother, who lives among us,
hallowed be Thy names,
Thy love shall reign
and peace remain
on earth as it is in Heaven.

Oh Mother, how much we suffer!
stand with us now, we pray.
We need your pow'r,
this is the hour,
of our deepest supplication.

Madre Mía, who goes before us,
protect us and have your way.
You guide us still,
we believe your will
for justice and liberation.

Blessed Mother of New Creation,
resist with us every day,
reclaim our past
victory ours at last
the night of our vindication.

Chorus:

Our Mother, who lives among us,
hallowed be Thy names,
Thy love shall reign
and peace remain
on earth as it is in Heaven.

TESTIMONIOS / WITNESS

CREDO HISPANO (CREED) - at unison

Credo Hispano (Hispanic Creed) English by Dr. Justo González

We believe in God, the Father Almighty
Creator of the heavens and the earth;

Creator of the all peoples and all cultures;
Creator of all tongues and races.
We believe in Jesus Christ, his Son, our Lord,
God made flesh in a person for all humanity,
God made flesh in an age for all the ages,
God made flesh in one culture for all cultures,
God made flesh in love and grace for all creation.
We believe in the Holy Spirit
Through whom God incarnate in Jesus Christ
Makes his presence known in our peoples and our cultures;
Through whom, God Creator of all that exists,
Gives us power to become new creatures;
Whose infinite gifts make us one people: the body of Christ.
We believe in the Church
Universal because it is a sign of God's Reign,
Whose faithfulness is shown in its many hues
Where all the colors paint a single landscape,
Where all tongues sing the same praise.
We believe in the Reign of God – the day of the Great Fiesta
When all the colors of creation will form a harmonious rainbow,
When all peoples will join in joyful banquet,
When all tongues of the universe will sing the same song.
And because we believe, we commit ourselves:
To believe for those who do not believe,
To love for those who do not love,
To dream for those who do not dream,
Until the day when hope becomes reality.
Amen.

INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

Person 1: Holy and loving God, we stand today united as a people; A community of persons with open, yet strained, hearts; A community that longs for your Love and Justice in the world; A community that sees the sacred and speaks to its Truth. Yet we recognize the things that make us distinct – the heritages, cultures, languages and memories we cling to as part of our identities. We acknowledge the realities of segregation, stereotypes, deportation, poverty, and altogether brokenness. We come before you, Mysterious Creator God, to offer what is on our hearts, our joys and pains, that you may walk with us and guide us to fullness of life, restoration and hope.

Person 2: We rejoice in the complexities of race and nationality, but pray for the wisdom and sensitivity to know that these things are not the same. No matter what our race and/or nationality, may we approach others with respect, mutuality, and humility.

Person 1: We pray for the safety and well-being of all who cross borders, yet we recognize the harsh reality that not all make it to their destinations.

All: Hear my prayer, O Lord; let my cry come to you.

Person 2: We relish in the opportunity to engage in cross-cultural exchanges where we are able to share stories and language with one another.

Person 1: We acknowledge and abhor the political kidnappings in Latin America and the dangers faced by those working for justice around the world.

All: Hear my prayer, O Lord; let my cry come to you.

Person 2: We celebrate our Vanderbilt community for allowing the admission of undocumented students and being a prophetic witness in opening their doors to those whom society sees as suspect.

Person 1: Likewise, we offer our frustration in dealing with the institutional barriers refugees and immigrants face in applying for green cards and other formal documentation, simply to be recognized as human beings.

All: Hear my prayer, O Lord; let my cry come to you.

Person 2: We rejoice in the opening up of "worlds" in the discoveries of new lands and new ideas, and to be able to grow and thrive as a people.

Person 1: However, we mourn the losses suffered at the hands of European conquistadores, and the suppression of bodies in all expressions.

All: Hear my prayer, O Lord; let my cry come to you.

Person 2: We celebrate and encourage the education of our countries of origin and to be proud of our names and surnames, wherever they come from.

Person 1: Yet we struggle with and resist the barriers that our names can yield in having access to education, public services, and civil rights, as profiling is an ever-rampant danger.

All: Hear my prayer, O Lord; let my cry come to you.

Person 2: We find joy in the ability to express our faith and traditions as further evidence of our identities as people of sacred worth.

Person 1: We pray for and mourn las desaparecidas de Ciudad Juarez, the femicide of hundreds upon hundreds of women and girls targeted and killed in Northern Mexico for unthinkable reasons, done largely by men. And for all violence and harm done to others motivated by power, greed, lust, and pure hatred.

All: Hear my prayer, O Lord; let my cry come to you.

*Person 2: We rejoice in the fruits of the land – the foods that speak to our cultures. For the flavors, textures, and aromas of our respective heritages, the foods we share with one another, and the hands that prepare these meals of love and memories. We give **great** thanks!*

Person 1: But we grieve with those who live impoverished and do not have daily the warmth and comfort of good food, clean water, adequate clothing and shelter... We pray for those who are displaced by economic forces and natural disasters such as floods, earthquakes, and mudslides.

All: Hear my prayer, O Lord; let my cry come to you.

Person 2: For many other unspoken prayers we come to God for peace again and again.

Person 1: May we hear these petitions of prayer and thanksgiving, knowing that this is not an exhausted listing of things offered to God, but only a portion of what we feel in our minds and on our hearts. In the name of God, Spirit and Christ, hear our woes and celebrations; Lift them up to the Lord who loves, redeems, and offers hope.

All: Amen.

***CORITO / WORSHIP SONG – “Enviad@ soy de Dios / Sent Out in Jesus Name” Glory To God Hymnal 747**

***DISMISSAL**

****Standing for those who are comfortable doing so.***

Bold and italics indicate places in which the congregation is invited to respond together.

Thank You

The worship committee wishes to thank all those who gathered for worship today. We particularly thank you for ministering to each other and sharing your faith stories. We also thank Latin@/American@ Seminarians and those who made preparations and offered their leadership gifts. If you would like to participate in these weekly services, please contact a member of the worship committee.

Bulletin cover image from <http://www.zanzibartribalart.com/jimenezcrosses.htm>

By Claudio Jimenez of Peru Retablo Cross - Features a traditional Peruvian Andes Indian dance (by Native children) accompanied by a harpist and violin player.

The Purpose of Weekly Worship at Vanderbilt Divinity School

We affirm that the sacred nature of worship is revealed when a community gathers to seek the “sacred beyond it and within it.” In that spirit, we strive to provide a setting where various faith traditions can be experienced. We encourage participants to be fully authentic in their expression, as we believe that the gift of true diversity comes not from diluting messages but from expressing them in an environment where assumptions can be overcome and understanding attained. We recognize that this, at times, may create an environment of spiritual discomfort; yet we affirm that in the midst of human struggle we often experience the sacred most powerfully.