



Workshop for RJ Week 2010

Workshop on Restorative Justice for Faith Communities -the third in a series of three

This workshop is prepared by the Church Council on Justice and Corrections (CCJC) and its membership in collaboration with Correctional Service Canada (CSC) – Chaplaincy. It is intended to assist faith communities, including Christian Churches and other Houses of Worship (such as Mosques, Synagogues, etc.) in promoting the values of restorative justice within their communities during Restorative Justice Week.

This two-hour workshop is the third in a series of three. The first is an experiential experience of a restorative process; the second workshop focuses on understanding the needs of those affected by crime. This workshop provides the opportunity for a community of faith to come together in a worship service to consider our brokenness in God's presence. Because of the different nature of worship traditions, this workshop is intended as a guide, and will have to be adapted to meet the needs of your faith community, including references to appropriate music, prayer and readings from Sacred Texts. You may choose to use these workshops at separate occasions or combine them to organize a full-day event.

The first two workshops are posted here:

<http://www.csc-scc.gc.ca/text/rj/rj2009/lett-eng.shtml>

More faith resources are available on CCJC's and CSC's websites:

CCJC: www.ccjc.ca/restorative_justice

CSC Chaplaincy: <http://www.csc-scc.gc.ca/text/rj/rj2009/lett-eng.shtml>

& again here: <http://www.csc-scc.gc.ca/text/prgrm/chap/faith/sr-eng.shtml>

for various faith communities.

For information on how to obtain other materials on Restorative Justice Week 2010, please visit our website

www.ccjc.ca/restorative_justice.html

This workshop was prepared by the Church Council on Justice and Corrections (CCJC) and representatives from supporting denominations in collaboration with the Correctional Service of Canada.

Please take a moment to provide us feedback on materials we prepared for RJ Week 2009 by completing a quick survey available on our website: www.ccjc.ca/restorative_justice.html

Contents

Introduction	3
Goals:	3
Materials and Preparation:	3
Pastoral Support Team:	3
Stations Setup	4
Message or Homily.....	4
An Order of Service.....	5
Appendix I	7
Order of Service	7
Appendix II – The Three Stations.....	9



Brokenness and Presence
A service for those harmed by crime and violence,
and people who support them

Introduction: Faith traditions have a history of providing support, compassion and an opportunity for lamentation to those who have been wounded by crime and violence. For example, in a Christian context, understanding Jesus' woundedness helps us to appreciate and reflect more fully on the injustice of his crucifixion, along with the powerful meaning of the example illustrated by his compassionate walk for the wounded during his time on earth. This workshop/worship service can give faith communities a place to uphold these traditions, and honour peoples' experiences of wounding.

Goals: This service / workshop encourages participants to reflect on their woundedness within a sacred context, and to hope and pray for healing and restoration.

Materials and Preparation:

Materials required:

Blank cards, pencils or pens enough for each participant or more

Candles, lighter and instructions for Station One

Quote cards for Station Two

Pictures showing feelings one may experience while suffering for Station Three

Musical support (as appropriate for faith tradition) This may be live performance, CD music, or silence.

Kleenex

A box to receive the Prayer Cards

Preparation:

Please adapt this workshop/service to best meet the needs of your community. Because of differences in worship traditions, this workshop is intended as a guide, and will have to be adapted to meet the needs of your faith community, including references to appropriate music, prayer and readings from Sacred Texts.

Pastoral Support Team: It is important to have a Pastoral Support Team (which may already exist in your church) on hand during the service so that people who participate can be adequately supported. This team would be invited to support and companion participants through prayer, counsel or with practical concerns as people request this. The team would be carefully chosen to reflect their advanced skill with listening, empathy, and sensitivity to victims' concerns

In preparation for the service, a meeting with, and discussion with the Pastoral Support Team beforehand is essential to provide a safe and respectful experience for everyone. This meeting could take 1 to 1 ½ hours, including assisting with practical setup of the service. Some victim sensitivity training/preparation, and team building regarding this event are essential. Issues raised could include appropriate ground rules for mixed gender prayer, mutual support, and some scenarios for victim sensitivity. It would also be appropriate to spend some time in discussion of team member's individual experiences of victimization so they are prepared for any effect the service may have on their personal situations.

The Pastoral Support Team will be available throughout the 15 minutes set aside for doing the stations, helping people with working through them, supporting people who have strong reactions to the stations, and generally welcoming and being a warm presence for those who attend the service. They will continue to be available throughout the service, and a room should be set aside nearby to receive those who are too upset to continue participating in the service. The Pastoral Support Team should assist with this room.

Stations Setup: Three stations are set up in the worship space prior to the service. At each station, blank cards and pencils or pens are available so people can record their reactions, thoughts and prayers.

Station One: Remembering Candles: An opportunity to light a candle, in acknowledgment of one's story of suffering and of sharing that story with God. (See Appendix II for detail on Stations)

Station Two: Words of Empathy: This station is to be set up with quotes both from scriptures and other important writing related to suffering, to allow people to enter into the language of expressing their woundedness. (See Appendix II for detail on Stations)

Station Three: Faces of Suffering: This station has numerous pictures laid out that show expressions of feelings related to suffering, inviting those present to reflect on the shared experiences of humanity as sufferer. (See Appendix II for detail on Stations)

Message or Homily: A message or homily should be prepared that focuses on four main points:

- God does not approve of unnecessary suffering,
- God prioritizes care for those who are suffering and marginalized,
- It is in responding to suffering that we find ourselves serving God and understanding The Creator more fully
- Our wounds and scars are evidence of the redemptive power of God, and are not marks of shame.

This homily should be supported with references to your faith tradition's Sacred Texts. Scriptural support this homily for Christians can be found in Appendix III

Workshop Agenda: It is expected that this workshop/service will last 1.5 to 2 hours.



An Order of Service

1. Music of Invitation

During the time that people gather, quiet, reflective music can be played to allow time for transition into sacred space. (see Appendix I for musical suggestions for Christian traditions)

2. Opening Welcome: Opening words of welcome invite people to the service, express the intention, and make their experience a priority. People are invited to take care of themselves, to light a candle whenever they feel so led, to ask for help from the Pastoral Support Team.

The Pastoral Support Team is identified.

3. People are invited to be in charge of their experiences, and welcomed to share as little or as much as they wish during the service. If there are visitors, washrooms should be located for them.

A Musical Offering – A shared hymn or other sacred piece can help to gather the congregation, and focus people on the theme

4. Reading Aloud from Sacred Texts

Readings from Sacred Texts (Christian suggestions in Appendix I)

Reading A

Reading B

Devotional, Homily or Message

(see Appendix I for context of Homily including suggested texts for Christian service)

Invite people to the stations, for about 15 or 20 minutes. Explain each briefly.

Individual Reflection – Writing Exercise with prayer cards

Prayer cards and pens or pencils are shared. People are encouraged to anonymously write down a prayer or yearning they have related to their suffering, with the understanding that a few of these will be read and prayed for during the service. Others will be prayed over later.

These cards are then collected in a beautiful box, and offered to the Worship Leaders. A small selection (3 or 4) can be read out and prayed over during the service (below). The rest of the cards can be saved and prayed over by the Pastoral Support Team following the service, and then should be reverentially destroyed (perhaps an outdoor burning, with prayer).

Praying through a few cards out loud with the prayer team.

A Musical offering can be played or performed.

A Benediction, or Blessing and Closing

Quiet music can be played, as people are welcomed to stay for individual prayer or pastoral care, or take their leave, as they feel led.

An example of an Order of Service can be found in Appendix I



Appendix I

This service has been used at North Langley Community Church, B.C. (www.nlcc.ca) This was their order of Service.

Order of Service

Invitational - Deliver Me – David Crowder

All music can be previewed online, and chords and lyrics are available online also.

Welcome

Find me in the River - Delirious

Shadows – William Klappen

Here by The Water – Steve Bell

Reading A

Psalm 13: 1- 6 (NIV)

Reading B

Psalm 27: 1- 5, read responsively (NRSV)

Leader:

The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

Congregation:

When evildoers assail me to devour my flesh — my adversaries and foes — they shall stumble and fall.

Leader:

Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war rise up against me, yet I will be confident.

Congregation:

One thing I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after: to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in his temple.

All:
One thing I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after: to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in his temple.

Devotional/Homily or Message

Devotional Texts (NIV)

- God is against unnecessary suffering: Matthew 26:36 - 44
- God identifies with the suffering Matthew 25: 32 - 40
- God does not leave us alone in suffering Luke 10: 25 – 37 & Romans 8: 26-27
- God can redeem any circumstance – wounds become a testimony to His power John 20: 24 - 28

The Stations:

Invite people to the stations, for about 15 or 20 minutes.

Individual Reflection

Writing Exercise with prayer cards

Corporate or Communal Prayer:

Praying through a few cards out loud with the prayer team

Music: It is Well With My Soul - Horatio Spafford

A Benediction and Closing

Closing Music

The Glory of it All – David Crowder

Blessed be Your Name – Matt Redman

Invite individuals to revisit stations, or stay for prayer before they leave.



Appendix II – The Three Stations

Remembering Candles: Station #1

Prepare tea lights and plates for them to sit on, as well as a way to light them.

The following instructions should be printed and available on the table:

Do you believe that tomorrow is just an extension of today, or do you believe that things can change; that people can change?

We believe in PRESENCE. Not a passive presence, but a presence that accompanies through the tragedy and brokenness of life with love.

Instructions:

For centuries, lighting a candle has been a symbol representing the offering up of a prayer to God.

Think of your story of suffering.

As you light a candle, share that story with God.

Just as the flame and smoke ride up from the candle, envision your prayer rising up to God.

Words of Empathy: Station 2

Quotes and Verses (all verses in NIV)

Who Is My Neighbour?

Luke 10:25 On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

26" What is written in the Law?" he replied. "How do you read it?"

27 He answered: " 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind'; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'"

28" You have answered correctly," Jesus replied. "Do this and you will live."

29 But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"

30 In reply Jesus said: "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he fell into the hands of robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. 31A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. 32 So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. 33 But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. 34 He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, took him to an inn and took care of him. 35 The next day he took out two silver coins[e]

and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.'

36" Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?"

37 The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him."

Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise."

The God of All Comfort

2 Corinthians 1:3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, 4 who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God. 5 For just as the sufferings of Christ flow over into our lives, so also through Christ our comfort overflows. 6 If we are distressed, it is for your comfort and salvation; if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which produces in you patient endurance of the same sufferings we suffer. 7 And our hope for you is firm, because we know that just as you share in our sufferings, so also you share in our comfort.

Groaning

Romans 8:22 We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. 23 Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. 24 For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what he already has? 25 But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.

26 In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. 27 And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will.

The Sheep and the Goats

Matthew 25: 31 "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his throne in heavenly glory. 32 All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. 33 He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

34 "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. 35 For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, 36I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'

37 "Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? 38 When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? 39 When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?'

40 "The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.'

Quotes from the Quaker “Justice Quotes” Resource:

The sentiment of justice is so natural, and so universally acquired by all mankind, that it seems to be independent of all law, all party, all religion.

~ Voltaire

My heart is transformed by the smile of trust given by some people who are terribly fragile and weak. They call forth new energies from me. They seem to break down barriers and bring me a new freedom.

It is the same with the smile of a child: even the hardest heart can't resist. Contact with people who are weak and who are crying out...is one of the most important nourishments in our lives. When we let ourselves be really touched by the gift of their presence, they leave something precious in our hearts.

As long as we remain at the level of “doing” things for people, we tend to stay behind our barriers of superiority.

~ Jean Vanier

This is the big lie the world tells us: that the universe is connected by trade agreements, electronic banking, computer networks, shipping lanes, and the seeking of profit—nothing else. Whereas this is the truth of God: all creation is one holy web of relationships, and gifts meant for all; that creation vibrates with the pain of all its parts, because its true destiny is joy.

~ Julie Polter

A person's a person no matter how small.

~ Dr. Seuss

To live with the conscious knowledge of the shadow of uncertainty, with the knowledge that disaster or tragedy could strike at any time; to be afraid and to know and acknowledge your fear, and still to live creatively and with unstinting love: that is to live with grace.

~ Peter Abrahams

How strange that we should ordinarily feel compelled to hide our wounds when we are all wounded!

Community requires the ability to expose our wounds and weaknesses to our fellow creatures. It also requires the ability to be affected by the wounds of others...But even more important is the love that arises among us when we share, both ways, our woundedness.

~ M. Scott Peck

We have a long, long way to go.

So let us hasten along the road,
the roads of human tenderness and generosity.

groping, we may find
one another's hands in the dark.

~Emily Greene Balch

Although the world is full of suffering, it is full also of the overcoming of it.

~ Helen Keller

In the part of this universe that we know, there is great injustice, and often the good suffer and often the wicked prosper, and one hardly knows which of these is more annoying.

~Bertrand Russell

God the Angry Victim

Exodus 32: 9 "I have seen these people," the LORD said to Moses, "and they are a stiff-necked people. 10 Now leave me alone so that my anger may burn against them and that I may destroy them. Then I will make you into a great nation."

11 But Moses sought the favor of the LORD his God. "O LORD," he said, "why should your anger burn against your people, whom you brought out of Egypt with great power and a mighty hand? 12 Why should the Egyptians say, 'It was with evil intent that he brought them out, to kill them in the mountains and to wipe them off the face of the earth'? Turn from your fierce anger; relent and do not bring disaster on your people. 13 Remember your servants Abraham, Isaac and Israel, to whom you swore by your own self: 'I will make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and I will give your descendants all this land I promised them, and it will be their inheritance forever.' " 14 Then the LORD relented and did not bring on his people the disaster he had threatened.

The Faces of Suffering: Station 3

Eight or ten images are printed out and spread out on a table for people to look at. Instructions on the table invite people to reflect on which images they connect with and why. Small cards are available for those who wish to write their thoughts down. It is helpful to have people from the prayer team walk through this process as some responses to the images were quite strong.

(The photos are posted on Church Council on Justice and Corrections website:

http://www.ccjc.ca/restorative_justice.html)