

Voices Together Hymn Sing Blueprint:

Voices Together: A Call to Action

Note to the leader: Calls to action are pervasive throughout *Voices Together*, inviting worshippers to follow God's call for justice through concrete actions in their communities.

GATHERING

VT #878 Land Acknowledgement

- Land or territorial acknowledgements recognize that the Americas were already inhabited when Europeans arrived here. They name the original inhabitants of the land, and you are invited to research the names of the Indigenous peoples who lived on your land before you did. Land acknowledgements should be accompanied by a commitment to seek a better future for all members of a community, including immigrants and Indigenous peoples.

VT #651 Lord, Have Mercy

- From the reference notes: "This kyrie is a part of a larger mass composed for the consecration of Anglican bishop Tom Corston (Chapleau Cree, Ontario) as bishop of the Diocese of Moosonee. This diocese, which includes people of British Canadian, French Canadian, and Indigenous cultures, continues to use these musical settings. The composer suggests that the petitions (Lord, have mercy and Christ, have mercy) be sung a total of seven times as an acknowledgment of seven teachings of humility, love, bravery, truth, respect, honesty, and wisdom. Once familiar, encourage singers to improvise tone clusters and dissonances on the third melodic statement, embodying a cry of lament."

VT #205 Light Dawns on a Weary World

- The work of justice is difficult and sometimes feels futile; this song acknowledges the weariness of this work and provides hope at the same time.

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

Scripture: Matthew 5:3-12, VT #295

Voices Together includes several settings of the Beatitudes. Choose one:

VT #290 Blessed Are You

VT #578 Balaacoolwe (Blessed Are the Persecuted)

Created by *Voices Together* committee members. Permission granted to use and adapt this order of worship.

VT #360 Who are These (verses in accompaniment edition)

VT #712 Beauty for Brokenness

- Like the Beatitudes, this song recognizes that God's reign welcomes the last to be first. This song is a call for compassion, for us to see beauty in the fragility around us.

REFLECTING ON GOD'S WORD

VT #1038 - Peace is Not the Product of Terror or Fear (also in spanish)

- Oscar Romero was a Catholic church leader who spoke out against social injustice and violence in El Salvador. He was an advocate for the poor and marginalized. This quote is from three years before he was assassinated while celebrating mass. It calls us to a rich and full understanding of all of the complexities of peace. If possible, have a native Spanish speaker or a Spanish learner read the original Spanish text, which is also found in *Voices Together*.

VT #413 Na nzela na lola (As Long as We Follow) MALEMBE

- In the face of acknowledging injustice and committing to working toward conciliation and reparation, we can sing our faith in the coming of God's reign.

VT #763 Waterfall

- "Waterfall" is written by Anabaptist songwriter Jonathan Reuel. The words draw us to reconciliation within ourselves, but also beyond ourselves and in the world. The final lines of the chorus were added more recently, and call for God to reveal Godself, setting things right in the world.

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Note for the leader: We have provided song ideas and context here, but suggest that you choose resources that will resonate for your community. You will know what your congregation's mission and projects are within your community, so you may add in specifics about where you are being called. Some themes you may want to explore are creation care, racial justice, welcoming refugees, etc.

VT #772 God of Justice

- This song by Tim Hughes invites us to turn our prayers into actions: “Keep us just from singing, move us into action.” As we finish our hymn sing, be reminded to turn our thoughts into movement.

VT #1036 - Lay One Brick at a Time

- This call to action was written by Dorothy Day in 1957. Day was a Catholic social activist and one of the founders of the Catholic Worker Movement, which provides support for low income people and those experiencing homelessness.

VT #146 Lord Jesus, Come and Overturn

- This song calls out to Jesus to show us the way to justice. It draws on biblical imagery such as turning over tables to invite Jesus to “Transform our temples.”

SENDING

VT #1039 - May We Go Forth Into the World

- These words are from African American civil rights activist and Episcopal priest M. Moran Weston. They can be used as a blessing for all who go out into the world to engage in public action at any level.

VT #611 Lift Every Voice and Sing

- This song is often called the “Black National Anthem;” it was written and composed by brothers James Weldon Johnson and John Rosamond Johnson, and performed at a celebration of Abraham Lincoln’s birthday in 1900.