

Worship Resources for Trinity Sunday, May 18, 2008  
Sacred Conversation on Race

Call to Worship

Adapted, Trinity United Church of Christ, Chicago

ONE: Beautiful are the works of God!

ALL: **Beautiful also are the skins of God's people!**

ONE: Beautiful is the image of God!

ALL: **Beautiful also are the hopes of God's people!**

ONE: Beautiful is the heart of God!

ALL: **Beautiful also are the souls of God's people!**

ONE: In Jesus Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit, God has made us one.

ALL: **To God be the glory for the things God has done.**

Prayer of Confession

**O Triune God of boundless love, you show no partiality in respect to persons, nations, or races; for all are created in your image. Your good news of great joy is for all people. Our history is marked by separation and segregation. We come confessing our sin to you and to each other. We come seeking your reconciliation and wholeness in the midst of our brokenness. As you are one in three, so knit all your people into one people, a seamless garment of many colors. We pray in the name of the Christ, who died to set us free. Amen.**

The Belhar Confession

The General Assembly has commended the Belhar Confession to the church as a "resource for reflection, study, and response, as a means of deepening the commitment of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to dealing with racism and a means of strengthening its unity, bearing in mind that the Belhar Confession emerged from the context of racism in South Africa." This Confession and the study guide for it can be downloaded from [www.pcusa.org/racialjustice](http://www.pcusa.org/racialjustice).

Hymns

PH 289 O God of Every Nation  
PH 420 God of Grace and God of Glory`  
PH 563 Lift Every Voice and Sing  
PH 369 I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me  
PH 358 Help Us Accept Each Other  
PH 439, 440 In Christ There Is No East or West

Sing the Faith 2235 Siyahamba  
SF 2234 Lead On, O Cloud of Presence  
SF 2226 Bind Us Together  
SF 2181 We Need a Faith  
SF 2170 God Made from One Blood

We Shall Overcome For Trinity Sunday you might add a verse such as:  
*God is our unity-y-y (2x); God is our unity today;*  
*Oh, deep in our hearts, we do believe God is our unity today.*

Additional worship resources are located at [www.ucc.org](http://www.ucc.org) and [www.pcusa.org/racialjustice](http://www.pcusa.org/racialjustice).

### **Small Group Sacred Conversations**

If your church would like to engage in small group conversations, here is a suggestion. To divide people use name tags with different symbols on each and have them sit around tables with the corresponding symbol. If you are doing this on Trinity Sunday, you might want to use Trinitarian symbols.

Ask each person to tell of an experience in which they felt that someone was discriminating against them because of race, ethnic group, religion, age, gender, socio-economic-status, etc.

If possible, have a facilitator at each table to keep conversations flowing or use “mutual invitation” in which each speaker calls on another person in the group to speak next until all have spoken. The facilitator may also want to ask how people felt and/or responded in these circumstances.

Begin and end with prayer, inviting the Spirit’s guidance in our speaking and listening; and thanking God for giving us the faith and the courage to speak openly and honestly about difficult issues.

May these conversations indeed be blessed and sacred ones.

### **In-Depth Discussion on Race**

At Edgewater the Session has decided that during the summer we will invite people who are interested in a more in-depth sacred conversation to read and discuss Barack Obama’s speech on race. If your church would be interested in this, please contact Rev. Barbara Cathey at [macphie@sbcglobal.net](mailto:macphie@sbcglobal.net) for a copy of the speech and our discussion questions.