



Hello again from the Stewardship Team!

You may be most familiar with us from the pledge campaign, but we recognize that as Christians we all steward far more than our financial resources.

What about how we use our time, our presence, and our power?

We heard from many of you that in light of the New Year and the results of the Presidential election, you are looking for meaningful ways to make a difference and to stand in solidarity with the most marginalized in our community. So we offer you these take-home materials on **Resourcing Our Resolve**. We hope you will join with us in common prayer, scriptural reflection, and activities related to the practice of faithful, joyous stewardship of time and presence.

Then the Justice and Peace Committee will get us connected! Come to the **resource fair on Sunday, Jan. 22** with our outreach ministry partners to hear what they need and how we can be there for them.

Stewarding Our Time, Presence & Power

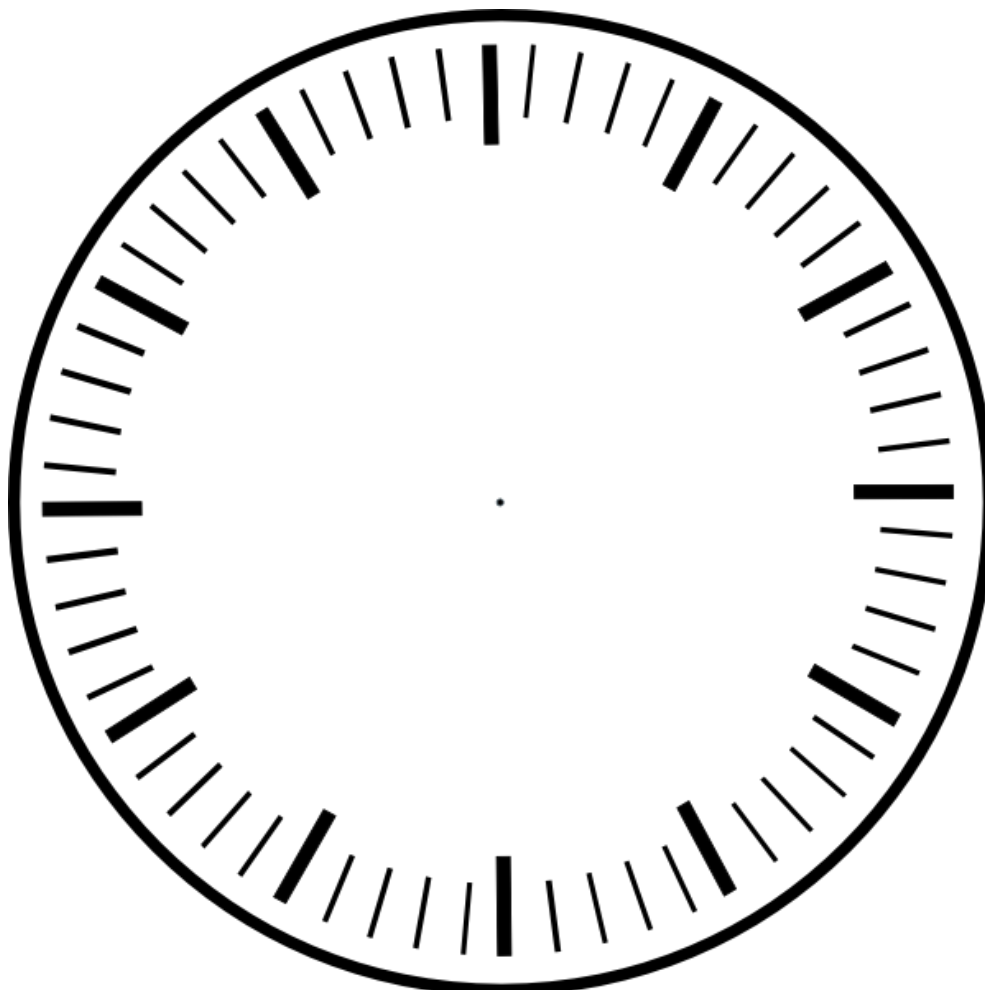
Week 1

Reflection

We are all so busy with so many things. Much of our time feels spoken for and out of our control. What would it be like to reclaim some of that time? To feel like we could use our time judiciously, and even allow some of it to lie fallow or contribute it to others? What would you be afraid of losing? What would you stand to gain?

Action

Where and how do you spend your time? Take a moment this week to notice what you devote your day to. If it helps to visualize, fill in the clock below with the proportions of how you spend your time. Does it look the way you thought it would? What surprises you? How well does it line up with your ideals? Highlight any time you spend in service of others.



Scripture

On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the sabbath, they were watching him closely. Just then, in front of him, there was a man who had dropsy. And Jesus asked the lawyers and Pharisees, “Is it lawful to cure people on the sabbath, or not?” But they were silent. So Jesus took him and healed him, and sent him away. Then he said to them, “If one of you has a child or an ox that has fallen into a well, will you not immediately pull it out on a sabbath day?” And they could not reply to this. – Luke 14:1-6

Meditation

“To be hopeful in bad times is not just foolishly romantic. It is based on the fact that human history is a history not only of cruelty but also of compassion, sacrifice, courage, kindness.

“What we choose to emphasize in this complex history will determine our lives. If we see only the worst, it destroys our capacity to do something. If we remember those times and places—and there are so many—where people have behaved magnificently, this gives us the energy to act, and at least the possibility of sending this spinning top of a world in a different direction.

“And if we do act, in however small a way, we don’t have to wait for some grand utopian future. The future is an infinite succession of presents, and to live now as we think human beings should live, in defiance of all that is bad around us, is itself a marvelous victory.” – Howard Zinn

Prayer

O God, your unfailing providence sustains the world we live in and the life we live: Watch over those, both night and day, who work while others sleep, and grant that we may never forget that our common life depends upon each other's toil; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. – BCP

Reflection

Time, or its seeming scarcity, is something that can easily prevent us from being present to anyone outside the circle of those most immediately around us. Use the space below to map your community and the people who live, work, worship, and go about their days near you. Who are you connected to? Who is missing or forgotten? What would it be like to be better connected to the communities you are less connected to? What might it cost? What blessings might be there?

A large, empty rounded rectangular box with a thin green border, intended for the user to write their reflection on the text above.

Scripture

He entered Jericho and was passing through it. A man was there named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was rich. He was trying to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was short in stature. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to see him, because he was going to pass that way. When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, “Zacchaeus, hurry and come down; for I must stay at your house today.” So he hurried down and was happy to welcome him. All who saw it began to grumble and said, “He has gone to be the guest of one who is a sinner.” Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, “Look, half of my possessions, Lord, I will give to the poor; and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will pay back four times as much.” Then Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, because he too is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost.” – Luke 19:1-10

Meditation

Watch this incredible interview with Charlene Carruthers, founder of the Black Youth Project, on why it is imperative to center people on the margins in our stories. Go to <http://theroottv.theroot.com/video/2016-The-Root-100-Honoree-Charl> or google [Charlene Carruthers The Root] and click the first result.

Listen again to Phil’s sermon on Zacchaeus being in a hurry from Oct. 30 here: <http://www.allsoulsparish.org/worship-music-and-the-arts/sermons/>

Prayer

O Holy Spirit of comfort and eternal presence: spread over us, your weary and anxious people, your protective and reassuring wings, that we might be delivered from our fears of one another: that we might experience the exhilarating freedom of welcoming even strangers without defensiveness, hostility, or suspicion, but rather with openness, hospitality, and the expectation of friendship. In the Name of Jesus, who welcomes all.” Amen. – Episcopal Diocese of West Virginia, *A Year of Prayer to End Racism*

Reflection

When Jesus spent time with people on the margins, he was often asked to intercede on their behalf. Today, many marginalized communities are asking for our collective protection and support, and many of us are moved to stand in solidarity together. Most of us have powers we cannot even imagine, and there are ways we can make a significant difference. Being present to others can mean offering our physical presence and sharing a table, or it can mean believing people when they explain a need we don't necessarily understand. It can be heeding a call to action, attending a protest, or making a phone call. What needs are you hearing lately from marginalized or oppressed people in your community? How are you responding to their calls for support?

Action

Take a moment to get connected to a community on the margins. There are many ways you can do this.

1. Join the Justice and Peace Committee today at **Resourcing Our Resolve**. Volunteers and members of All Souls are present, ready to offer information on their various ministries. If you are not sure how to help or what action you can take, these groups are here to guide us, and All Souls is here to help us enter in in community. You can sign up to volunteer or to take action online or just to be listening to a community you haven't heard from before.
2. Learn more about the experiences of people who are different from you. Add a new news source centering voices on the margin to your regular rotation, whether that's on a newsfeed or social media or a subscription. Some options might include The Root, Mother Jones, Blavity, Colorlines, or The Salt Collective. Ask folks at the resource fair for their favorites too.
3. Help us build this conversation and presence into the fabric of our common life. There will be events coming up where the Justice and Peace Committee invites us to show up for racial justice or environmental justice together – join us in person and in prayer!

Scripture

“When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host; and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, ‘Give this person your place,’ and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, ‘Friend, move up higher’; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.” He said also to the one who had invited him, “When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.” – Luke 14:1, 7-14

Meditation

Listen again to Phil’s sermon on finding your place at the table from Aug. 28 here:
<http://www.allsoulsparish.org/worship-music-and-the-arts/sermons/>

“There is another alternative. Ascetic Christianity called the world evil and left it. Humanity is waiting for a revolutionary Christianity which will call the world evil and change it. We do not want to “blow all our existing institutions to atoms,” but we do want to remold every one of them. A tank of gasoline can blow a car sky-high in a single explosion, or push it to the top of a hill in a perpetual succession of little explosions. We need a combination between the faith of Jesus in the need and the possibility of the kingdom of God, and the modern comprehension of the organic development of human society.” – Walter Rauschenbusch

Prayer

Grant, O God, that your holy and life-giving Spirit may so move every human heart and especially the hearts of the people of this land, that barriers which divide us may crumble, suspicions disappear, and hatreds cease; that our divisions being healed, we may live in justice and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. – BCP

RESOURCING OUR RESOLVE

January 22, 8:30am-1:00pm at All Souls

Use this page to take notes at the resource fair. What organizations did you connect with? What do you want to learn more about? Remember to sign up for their email list or get contact information for their connection at All Souls so you can stay in touch.
