

Listening as an act of
Solidarity



From Statement of Lament and Commitment to Action:

Saint Mark's Cathedral reaffirms its commitment to respect the dignity of every human being, strive for justice and peace among all people, and seek and serve Christ in all persons. We recommit our resolve to condemn the discriminatory and violent discourse and actions in our nation that target particular groups of people based on their skin color, their religious affiliation, their gender or orientation, their disabilities, or their country of birth. *We must do better, and we pledge to be a network of faithful and prayerful learners, listeners, and activists, in God's name, joining others who similarly pledge to look beyond our own blinders and pursue justice.*

Why Listening as an act of Solidarity?

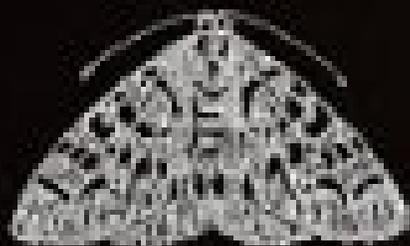
Question: Do you renounce the evil powers of this world which corrupt and destroy the creatures of God?

Answer: I renounce them.

Presider: Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

People: I will, with God's help

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Ijeoma Oluo



SOME
HEAT
PLACE

truth
AGAINST
~~hate~~

CONVICTS

Listening as an act of solidarity

What was your physical response to the story?

What was going on in your mind as you listened to the stories?

What did you notice in the way the storytellers told their stories?

What words or images stayed with you?

Did you experience any distraction/defensiveness/reactivity when listening to the stories? If so, how could you tell?

Listening as an act of solidarity

Sharing by one person

(3 minutes)

While individuals are sharing, the others listen prayerfully through to the end without interruption.

Silence

(2 minutes)

This silence is a time to notice our initial reaction/response and for making space for God, for allowing God to cut through the limits of biases and accustomed ways of responding so that individuals might respond to the presenter from a place of freedom.

Response

(about 5 minutes)

There is a period of sharing the questions or comments that have come up on the silence. Trust is honored when individuals listen to the response of others, instead of holding onto a personal agenda for

Silence

(about 2 minutes)

During this time people pray for the person who has just presented. The presenter may want to take some notes on what she has heard.

The "Sharing-Silence-Response-Silence" is repeated, until at least two members have presented, having our time limit in mind.

Reflection on the time together

(5 minutes)

This reflection is not meant to analyze the time together or to control future outcomes. Instead, it is a gentle looking and noticing, God and the group together, and an honest sharing around what is seen. The focus for this time is the sense of prayerfulness within the group and within individuals. Whatever is addressed — silence, words, the human dynamics within the group — is viewed

*Adapted from Shalem Institute for Spiritual Formation



THE IMPORTANCE OF
ONE SQUARE
INCH