



Empire and the Cross

Sowing the Seeds of Hope

A Service of Worship and Witness

Livermore Nuclear Weapons Lab

Good Friday — 2016

Morning Song

Daniel Zwickel ben Avram MacJean

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Honoring the Land and the Ancestors

Patricia St. Onge

Welcome

Janet Cordes Gibson

Invocation

Zahra Billoo

Dance *Beatitudes*

Sweet Honey in the Rock

choreography by **Carla DeSola** with congregational response

Responsive Reading

led by **Silvia Brandon-Pérez & Stephen McDermott Myers**

**Leader 1:** There are among us those who sell the just for money and the poor for a pair of sandals, as the prophets said. There are those who pile up spoils and plunder in their palaces, who crush the poor, who bring on a reign of violence while reclining on beds of ivory, who join house to house and field to field so as to take up all there is and remain alone in the land.

**Leader 2:** I call for a radical re-orientation away from our habitual preoccupation with self towards concern for the wider community of beings with whom we are connected, and for conduct which recognizes others' interests alongside our own.  
His Holiness the Dalai Lama

**People:** In the name of God, I implore you — stop the slaughter! *¡Paren la matanza!*

**Leader 1:** I will not tire of declaring that if we really want an effective end to violence we must remove the violence that lies at the root of all violence: structural violence, social injustice, exclusion of citizens from the management of the country, repression. All this is what constitutes the primal cause, from which the rest flows naturally.

**Leader 2:** An expert in the law tested him with this question: "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it. 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."  
Matthew 22:35-40

**People:** In the name of God, I beg you — stop the slaughter! *¡Paren la matanza!*

**Leader 1:** A civilization of love that did not demand justice of people would not be a true civilization: it would not delineate genuine human relations. It is a caricature of love to try to cover over with alms what is lacking in justice, to patch over with an appearance of benevolence when social justice is missing. True love begins by demanding what is just in the relations of those who love.

**Leader 2:** That which is hateful to you do not do to another . . . the rest (of the Torah) is all commentary. Now go study.  
Rabbi Hillel

**People:** In the name of God, I order you — stop the slaughter! *¡Paren la matanza!*

**Leader 1:** What marks the genuine church, is the word that, burning like the word of the prophets, proclaims and accuses: proclaims to the people God's wonders to be believed and venerated, and accuses of sin those who oppose God's reign, so that they may tear that sin out of their hearts, out of their societies, out of their laws -- out of the structures that oppress, that imprison, that violate the rights of God and of humanity.

**Leader 2:** Good and evil are not alike. Repel *evil* with that which is best. And lo, he between whom and thyself was enmity will become as though he were a warm friend. But none is granted it save those who are steadfast; and none is granted it save those who possess a large share of good.

Al Quran 41:35-36

**People:** In the name of God, I order you — stop the slaughter! *¡Paren la matanza!*

**Leader 1:** Let us not tire of preaching love: it is the force that will overcome the world. Let us not tire of preaching love. Though we see that waves of violence succeed in drowning the fire of Christian love, love must win out; it is the only thing that can.

**Leader 2:** Grandfather, Sacred one, Teach us love, compassion, and honor,  
That we may heal the earth and heal each other.

Ojibway Prayer

**People:** Brothers, you came from our own people. You are killing your own brothers. Any human order to kill must be subordinate to the law of God, which says, "Thou shalt not kill." No soldier is obliged to obey an order contrary to the law of God. No one has to obey an immoral law. It is high time you obeyed your consciences rather than sinful orders. In the name of God therefore, in the name of this suffering people whose cries reach every day more and more urgently to heaven, I implore you, I beg you. I order you stop the slaughter! *¡Paren la matanza!*

**Update**

Marylia Kelley

**Song:** *We Shall Not Be Moved*

*No nos moverán*

led by Daniel Zwickel

**Words of Inspiration**

read by Rev. Samuel Maina, Wilson Riles, Jr., Rev. Max Lynn

They will build houses and live in them;  
they will plant vineyards and eat their fruit.

They won't build for others to live in,  
nor plant for others to eat.

Like the days of a tree will be the days of my people;  
and the works of their hands shall long serve them

They will not labor in vain,

nor bear children to a world of horrors.

Isaiah 65:21-23

Wake Up! Wake Up, Humankind!

We are out of time!

We must shake our conscience free of the rapacious capitalism, racism and patriarchy that will only assure our own self-destruction. The Gualcarque River has called upon us as have other gravely threatened rivers. We must hear their call. Our Mother Earth, militarized, fenced in, poisoned, a place where basic rights are systematically violated demands that we take action. Let us build societies that are able to coexist in a dignified way that protects life. Let us come together and remain hopeful as we defend and care for the blood of this Earth and its spirits.

¡Despertemos! ¡Despertemos, Humanidad! ¡Ya no hay tiempo!

Nuestras conciencias serán sacudidas por el hecho de estar solo contemplando la autodestrucción basada en la depredación capitalista, racista y patriarcal. El Río Gualcarque nos ha llamado, así como los demás que están seriamente amenazados en todo el mundo. Debemos acudir.

La Madre Tierra militarizada, cercada, envenenada, donde se violan sistemáticamente los derechos elementales, nos exige actuar.

Construyamos entonces sociedades capaces de coexistir de manera justa, digna y por la vida.

Juntémonos y sigamos con esperanza defendiendo y cuidando la sangre de la tierra y de sus espíritus.

Berta Cáceres, martyr, environmental and indigenous leader, 1969-2016

**Homily: Empire and the Cross**

Rev. Deborah Lee

**Song:** *God Bless the Grass*

by Malvina Reynolds

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**Leader 1 & People** readings are from the sermons of Archbishop Oscar Romero, courtesy of Blessed Oscar Romero Catholic Worker Community of Oklahoma City, <http://www.justpeace.org/romero.htm>  
Words of Inspiration include Berta Cáceres' address upon receiving the Goldman Environmental Prize, 2015

**Offering** (please make tax-deductible checks out to EPI)  
Offertory: **Tony Scarr**, clarinet

**Janet Gibson**

**Benediction & Call to Action**

**Rabbi Lynn Gottlieb**

**Closing Music: *No basta rezar***

by **Alí Primera**

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Guidance and Directions

Janet Gibson

Procession to Gates/Stations of the Cross

I. Immigration

II. Palestine

III. Syria

IV. Nuclear Weapons

Chant for Peace on the Earth: *Namaste, Chaverim*

by **Daniel Zwickel**

Congregational Dance *Agnus Dei (Lamb of God)* from *Missa Gaia (Earth Mass)* by Paul Winter
led by **Carla DeSola & dancers**

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**God Bless the Grass**

**No basta rezar**

God bless the grass that grows thru the crack.  
They roll the concrete over it  
to try and keep it back.  
The concrete gets tired of what it has to do,  
It breaks and it buckles  
and the grass grows thru,  
And God bless the grass.

Coro: No, no, no basta rezar  
hacen falta muchas cosas  
para conseguir la paz,  
no, no, no basta rezar  
hacen falta muchas cosas  
para conseguir la paz.

God bless the truth that fights toward the sun,  
They roll the lies over it  
and think that it is done.  
It moves through the ground  
and reaches for the air,  
And after a while it is growing everywhere,  
And God bless the grass.

Y rezan de buena fe  
y rezan de corazón  
pero también reza el piloto  
cuando monta en el avión  
para ir a bombardear  
a los niños en Irak,  
para ir a bombardear  
a los niños en Irak.       Coro

God bless the grass that grows through cement.  
It's green and it's tender and it's easily bent.  
But after a while it lifts up its head,  
For the grass is living and the stone is dead,  
And God bless the grass.

Cuando el pueblo se levante  
y que todo haga cambiar  
ustedes dirán conmigo  
no bastaba con rezar,  
ustedes dirán conmigo  
no bastaba con rezar.       Coro

God bless the grass that's gentle and low,  
Its roots they are deep and its will is to grow.  
And God bless the truth, the friend of the poor,  
And the wild grass growing  
at the poor man's door,  
And God bless the grass.

En el mundo no habrá paz  
mientras haya explotación  
del hombre por el hombre  
y exista desigualdad,  
del hombre por el hombre  
y exista desigualdad.       Coro

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Nada se puede lograr  
si no hay revolución  
reza el rico, reza el amo  
y maltratan al peón,  
reza el rico, reza el amo  
y maltratan al peón.       Coro 2X

Participants include:

**Rev. Deborah Lee**, Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity, Women for Genuine Security  
**Daniel Zwickel ben Avram MacJean**, Mt. Diablo Unitarian Universalist Church, *Peacehost.net*  
**Patricia St. Onge**, Seven Generations Consulting and Coaching, Nafsi Ya Jamii urban retreat center and farm.  
**Janet Cordes Gibson**, board president of Ecumenical Peace Institute/CALC  
**Zahra Billoo**, Executive Director of Council on American-Islamic Relations – San Francisco Bay Area  
**Carla DeSola**, adjunct faculty in Sacred Dance, Pacific School of Religion and Center for the Arts,  
Religion & Education, Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley  
**Dancers: Christine Bachich, Jacqueline Chew, Claire Eustace and Soyinka Rahim**  
**Silvia Brandon-Pérez**, South Hayward Parish, Ecumenical Peace Institute, East Bay Interfaith  
Immigration Coalition  
**Stephen McDermott Myers**, SF public school educator, Thunder Dreamer, vocal artist  
**Marylia Kelley**, TriValley CAREs  
**Rev. Samuel Maina**, Christ's Abundant Love Church, Hayward  
**Wilson Riles, Jr.** former Oakland Councilmember, former Regional Director of the AFSC, former High  
School Principal. Current President of Nafsi Ya Jamii (Community of Souls)  
**Rev. Max Lynn**, St. John's Presbyterian Church, Berkeley  
**Tony Scarr**, Trinity United Methodist Church, Berkeley, Ecumenical Peace Institute  
**Rabbi Lynn Gottlieb**, Shomeret Shalom Rabbinic School & Learning Center  
**Carolyn Scarr** (coordinator), Ecumenical Peace Institute, Trinity United Methodist Church, Berkeley

#### **Organizations planning the Good Friday Worship & Witness:**

Ecumenical Peace Institute/CALC  
P.O. Box 9334  
Berkeley, CA 94709  
(510) 990-0374  
[www.epicalc.org](http://www.epicalc.org)

Livermore Conversion Project  
P.O. Box 28119  
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#### **After the Action:**

All are invited to the community gathering to be held today from 10:00 to 12:00 at Asbury United Methodist Church, 4743 East Ave. This will be an opportunity for us to share with each other our ongoing work for justice and peace. — From the corner, drive down Vasco to East Ave. Turn right. Asbury is on the left hand side of the street. Coffee and snacks and conversation.