

WORSHIP RESOURCES

The following are worship resources I developed taking into account the feeling and life of homeless women as I learned while I was serving them through the Church of Mary Magdalene, a congregation of homeless women, in Seattle, Washington.

LITANY OF HOMELESSNESS

Leader: The homeless are poor, dear God,

People: because we lost everything.

Leader: The homeless feel miserable, dear God,

People: because we lack the opportunity for shelter and security in time of our dire need.

Leader: The homeless are angry, dear God,

People: because we are hungry, thirsty and naked and have no place to turn.

Leader: The homeless are depressed, dear God,

People: because we easily fall into hopelessness as there isn't much to hope for.

Leader: The homeless are infuriated, dear God,

People: because we are alienated, feared and avoided as if we are a different species.

Leader: The homeless are oppressed, dear God,

People: because the burden of poverty and pain weighs us down and bends our backs.

Leader: The homeless are furious, dear God,

People: because we are accused of being mentally ill or drug/alcohol abusers.

Leader: The homeless are down, dear God,

People: because most of our nights are filled with tears and our days approach despair.

Leader: The homeless are helpless, dear God,

People: because many of us are victims of violence; we are wounded and powerless.

Leader: The homeless are crying out, dear God,

People: for acceptance, love and compassion. Amen.

LITANY OF DEATH

When we are **abused**, our identity dies.

When we are **dominated**, our self-determination dies.

When we are **oppressed**, our freedom dies.

When we are **forced**, our free-will dies.

When we are **threatened**, our peace dies.

When we are **raped**, our dignity dies.

When we are **sick**, our health dies.

When we are **mentally disturbed**, our dreams die.

When we are **depressed**, our joy dies.

When we are **angry and hateful**, our love dies.

When we **fall into temptations** our will-power dies.

When we **hurt** ourselves and others, our value dies.

When we are **evicted**, our home dies.

When we are **hungry** and thirsty, our hope dies.

When we have **no resources**, our future dies.

When our **children are taken away** by CPS, our heart dies.

When we **give our body** for money, our worth dies.

When we are **lying** and stealing, our honesty dies.

When we are **messed up** by drugs or alcohol, our mind dies.

When we **alienate** each other, our bond dies.

When our **minds are narrowed**, our vision dies.

When we **reject** ourselves, others and even God, our soul dies.

When we are **homeless**, our life dies.

When we **abandon or discriminate** against the needy ones,
God's children die.

When we **reject** God's will, the purpose of our life dies.

When we **do not love our neighbors**, our salvation dies.

IMAGE OF VIOLENCE

VIOLENCE is an act of violating women's dignity; women's rights are vetoed; it keeps women in a vulnerable place; it degrades the value of women as human beings; it kills women's voices; it is a vengeful assault in action and thought on women.

VIOLENCE is visible or invisible abuse on women; it is ignoring women's needs, hardship and pain; it is an assault to the image of God in women; it is impairing women's body, soul and spirit; it is incapacitating and inabling women; it is impoverishing women; it is inappropriate, intolerable, indifferent, an insult of women's pride and dignity; it is an insult and invasion of women's privacy; it is an iniquity. It is robbing women of their integrity.

VIOLENCE is all forms of oppression; physical, emotional and spiritual oppression; it is treating women as outcasts of our society; it is treating women as an obsolete and lifeless object.

VIOLENCE is treating women lifeless, least or lesser or lower than anything; it is making women landless (no home, no job, no resource to live); it is forcing women to be limited, lonely, lost and losers.
it is an action or thought stemming from the lack of caring and compassion.

VIOLENCE is making women to live on the edge; violence is an act or thought that erase, eliminate, estrangle, exclude and expel women from their family, friends and society; it is an exploitation and execution of women's body, soul and spirit.

VIOLENCE is an act and thought neglecting, negating and nullifying women's existence; it is making women naked, nameless and a needless nobody and nothing; it is nonsense and nauseating acts and thoughts.

VIOLENCE against women is an experience of being checked out like canceled checks and being cut off from all the chances; it is an experience of being controlled, chained, chastised, cheated, cheap, choked, chopped, crucified, ceased to exist. It is an everlasting captivity.

VIOLENCE is embarrassed, endangered and exhausted thing for women to bear; it is emptying women from existence.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We, who are homeless or suffering from multiple difficulties, believe in God who created and blessed women and men equally in God's own image.

We affirm God as a loving and forgiving God, not a condemning God. Therefore, we refuse to be treated as inferior and less worthy human beings. We loudly affirm that we deserve to dream a vision, hope and future.

We re-image Jesus Christ as a forgiving and healing mother, father, sister, brother, friend and Savior who, himself, was homeless, abused, and killed on a cross.

We affirm Jesus' resurrection as a mirror of our own healing from our poverty, homelessness, brokenness, bondage and destructive thoughts and actions.

We affirm the Holy Spirit as our source of strength and inspiration who raises us after every fall. The Spirit constantly leads us back home to God.

We affirm our gathering as a worshipping community that practices love, joy, peace, forgiveness, security and support for one another. Amen.

CONFESSION:

People with homes:

Dear merciful God, we, the people with homes, pour out our souls and confess before you:
You created all human beings in your image and blessed them equally, but we have created a high wall between the rich and poor. We force the poor into poverty and homelessness. We pretend to be blind and deaf when the needy look to us and cry out for help. We sleep in warm beds while the homeless sleep in rainy streets. We eat fresh juicy meat while the hungry chew on old dried bread. We have fun while the homeless are sick on cold, wet streets. We keep silent when we must speak the truth. Apathy and indifference have been our guards in protecting our abundance. Our dear merciful God, forgive our ignorance, apathy and selfishness. Bring us back home to you and help us to live your vision to end homelessness. Amen.

Homeless people:

Dear merciful God, we the homeless people pour out our souls and confess before you that we have been busy complaining that no one cares about us. In our frustration and powerlessness, we often give up and turn to a destructive life style. Too often we fall into temptations and become captives of despair and hopelessness. Our lives have been full of hurts, anger and hatred and we often cover our feelings by using substances. Sometimes we abuse our bodies which are the temples of your Spirit. We have been blind to see you as a loving and forgiving God. We have been slow to give you thanks for your care and love. Too often we forget that you walk, cry and suffer with us and in us. Dear merciful God, forgive us for walking away from you. Bring us back home to you and help us to live your vision to end homelessness. Amen.

LITANY OF BIRTHING

Leader: God loved the wounded and oppressed so much that he/she gave the birth of Jesus Christ.

People: The birth of Jesus Christ causes us to give a birthing.

Leader: What birthing shall we bring to the people filled with worry, anxiety, and who are at war with self and others?

People: Let us give a birthing of peace and justice in us and to each other.

Leader: What birthing shall we bring to people who are full of doubts and lack of confidence?

People: Let us give a birthing of faith in God who never gives up on us.

Leader: What birthing shall we bring to people who are sad and depressed?

People: Let us give a birthing of joy in all circumstances.

Leader: What birthing shall we bring to people who are discouraged and helpless?

People: Let us give a birthing of courage to get up after every fall.

Leader: What birthing shall we bring to people who are broken and divided?

People: Let us give a birthing of reconciliation with self, one another and God.

Leader: What birthing shall we bring to people who are frozen in greed?

People: Let us give a birthing of a sharing spirit with one another.

Leader: What birthing shall we bring to people who are indifferent and apathetic?

People: Let us give a birthing of a compassionate heart to the need of others.

Leader: What birthing shall we bring to the homeless women?

People: Let us give a birthing of homes for every living person on the streets.

ALL: Let us give a birthing of a BOND that binds us into one sisterhood and brotherhood transcending class, color, culture, religion, race, gender and disabilities. Amen.

LITANY OF WOMAN

W. WOMAN is warm, wise, worthy, wonderful, willing winner.

O. Woman is owner of a womb that is a warm, welcoming, wonderful place where life is conceived, loved, nurtured; it is life-growing and life-giving place.

All human beings, men and women, including Jesus, Buddha, Mohammed were conceived and born through women's wombs.

Regardless of our marital status, this makes a woman very unique, special, blessed and worthy.

Woman is an optimistic and overcoming and ordained one by God.

We also become an opportunity for others to see how blessed they are.

We become an opportunity for people to learn to share what they have.

M. WOMAN is a blessed mother. The nature of mother is love.

Mother shares our pain with us. Mother can give her life for us.

The nature of the Christian God is love. This God gave God's own life for us.

The closest image of God on earth is the mother.

All women, married or single, have this nature of motherliness in us.

As no one else on earth can be this mother, we must be proud of ourselves for being blessed with this motherly quality.

Woman is a magnificent magic maker.

A. WOMAN is an able and appreciative angel.

N. WOMAN is a greatly needed, neat, natural, nice and nurturing person.

Women offer new beginnings to all human beings.

LITANY OF HEALING

Leader: God created all women in her/his own image.

People: Healing is restoring the image of God in us.

Leader: Healing is rediscovering our identity and dignity.

People: Healing is an undoing of the harm done to us.

Leader: Healing is a freedom from all forms of oppression.

People: Healing is an ending to our homelessness.

Leader: Healing is a safety from rape, abuse and all harms.

People: Healing is an ending to abandonment and alienation.

Leader: Healing is an ending to anxiety and worry.

People: Healing is a liberation from guilt.

Leader: Healing is an accessibility to Doctors.

People: Healing is accessibility to health insurance.

Leader: Healing is living in peace.

People: Healing is turning away from substance abuse.

Leader: Healing is an overcoming of all the temptations.

People: Healing is our singing and laughing.

Leader: Healing is caring for ourselves and others.

People: Healing is restoring our bond with others and God.

Leader: Healing is unconditional love.

People: Healing is forgiveness.

Leader: Healing is using our full potential.

People: Healing is celebrating diversity and equality.

Leader: Healing is walking in the light.

People: Healing is walking into the future with a hope.

Leader: Healing is getting our dream back.

People: Healing is having many opportunities.

Leader: Healing is opening our visions.

People: Healing is breaking silence.

Leader: Healing is becoming free from greed.

People: Healing is loving our neighbors.

Leader: Healing is no more stones and snakes.

All: Healing is justice flowing like a river.

LITANY OF HOME

Leader: Dear Jesus, you are our *home*.

People: Your home is filled with your unconditional *love*.

Leader: Your home is filled with your *life* that raises the perishing.

People: Your home is filled with your *hope* that uplifts the despairing;

Leader: Your home is filled with your *grace* that forgives unforgivables.

People: Your home is filled with your *compassion* that feels other's pain.

Leader: Your home is filled with your *shalom* that ends all wars.

People: Your home is filled with your *security* that stops all violence.

Leader: Your home is filled with your *justice* for all the suffering.

People: Your home is filled with your *equality* that knows no discrimination.

Leader: Your home is filled with your *wholeness* that heals all brokenness.

People: Your home is filled with your *rainbow colors* that shatters all racism.

Leader: Your home is filled with your *unity* that mends all divisions.

People: Your home is filled with your *honor* that praises the most lowly.

Leader: Your home is filled with your *welcome* that embraces all the strangers.

People: Your home is filled with your *bread* that is shared with all the hungry.

Leader: Your home is filled with your *water* that quenches all the thirst.

People: Your home is filled with your *abundance* that knows no poverty.

Leader: Your home is filled with your *rooms* for all the homeless.

All: [God created us in the *image* of God's home. But our greed and injustice evicted us and others from your home. Dear Jesus, restore us back to your home. Amen](#)

LITANY OF JUBILEE

- J. JUBILEE is a restoration of JUSTICE and PEACE. JUBILEE is a joy.
 - U. JUBILEE is unconditional restoration of women's dignity, pride and self-esteem. It is universal unity of all women. It is unification with separated families. It is uniting with your own community. It is union with God which is also going back home.
 - B. JUBILEE is a birth of new hope, new dreams and a new future and new life. Jubilee is a new beginning. Jubilee is the boycott of all abuses and oppressions and unjust practices.
 - I. JUBILEE is restoration of the identity and image of women.
 - L. JUBILEE is love, light, life and the lifting of women's pride.
 - E. JUBILEE is eternal and enjoyable eligibility and equality for all women.
 - E. JUBILEE is ending all forms of oppressive sources.
JUBILEE is ending all violence on all women. JUBILEE is ending of all wars.
JUBILEE is ending homelessness.
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LITANY OF HOPE

Leader: Dear God of Sarah, Hagar, Mary Magdalene and Seattle* women, you are the source of life, love, forgiveness and hope.

People: Dear God, you created us in your own image and blessed us all equally.

Leader: You heard the cry of Hagar, Hannah, Bathseba, Ruth, Tamar and Rahab and comforted and blessed them.

People: Dear God, you created us in your own image and blessed us all equally.

Leader: Jesus came to this world to bring good news to the poor, to recover sight to the blind, to set free the oppressed, to comfort those who mourn and to heal the broken-hearted.

People: Dear God, you created us in your own image and blessed us all equally.

Leader: Jesus did not judge the woman caught in the act of adultery who was brought to the death sentence. He forgave her and empowered her to start a new life.

People: Dear God, you created us in your own image and blessed us all equally.

Leader: Jesus freed Mary Magdalene from 7 demons; depression, paranoia, despair, hopelessness, alienation, fear and pain. He chose her as his first witness of his resurrection.

ALL: We are often hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed because you give us hope and dwell within us. Amen

**insert the name of your community*

LITANY OF RISING

Leader: Jesus Christ rises from the dead:

People: We rise from our own death.

Leader: We rise to our pride.

People: We rise to our identity.

Leader: We rise to our dignity.

People: We rise to our worth.

Leader: We rise to our joy.

People: We rise to our love.

Leader: Jesus Christ rises from the dead:

People: We rise to our peace.

Leader: We rise to our freedom

People: We rise to our potential.

Leader: We rise to our opportunity.

People: We rise to our equality.

Leader: We rise to our courage.

People: We rise to our full health.

Leader: Jesus Christ rises from the dead:

People: We rise to our hopes.

Leader: We rise to our dreams.

People: We rise to unity with our children.

Leader: We rise to our vision.

People: We rise to our homes.

Leader: We rise to our life.

People: We rise to our salvation.

ALL: With Jesus Christ, all women rise.

We rise like a bird.

We rise like a bread.

We rise like a balloon.

We rise like a kite.

We rise like a tide.

We rise like a sun.

We rise like a fire.

With Jesus Christ, all women rise to our solidarity.

LITANY OF THANKSGIVING

Leader: We give you thanks, O God,

People: for the little things we own.

Leader: We give you thanks, O God,

People: for the bed we can sleep in tonight.

Leader: We give you thanks, O God,

**People: for Jesus Christ in our life and his coming to us
when others have abandoned us.**

Leader: We give you thanks, O God,

People: for your forgiveness and your healing of our wrong doings.

Leader: We give you thanks, O God,

People: for giving us courage to get up after every fall.

Leader: We give you thanks, O God,

**People: for the church of Mary Magdalene;
where we are treated like "human beings;"
where we have found our "dignity;"
where we have found ourselves "coming home to God;"
where we have found an "oasis" in a desert life;
where we have found "refuge" from our fear and pains; where we have found a
"port" in the storm;
where we have found "peace, joy, rest and new vision;"
where we have experienced" healing."**

Leader: We give you thanks, O God,

**People: for the women who feed us with warm fresh food;
for the women who sing and pray with us;
for the women who have taught us to sew;
for the women who clothed us with new bras and panties;
for the women and men who support us financially;
for the churches supporting our respite bed, which is for our sick sisters;
and for all the other volunteers who share their time, energy, talents and their
resources with us.**
