

# LOVE RESISTS

HANDOUT 1

## Love Resists Worship Service

Sample Order of Service

# Engaging Your Congregation with Love Resists

There are a few ways to start your team depending upon the size of your congregation and the justice ministries already underway in your congregation. After familiarizing yourself with the Love Resists campaign, consider holding a worship service to ground your work and bring your congregation on board. This service could be held in order to recruit members to be a part of a team, or after you have formed a team and want to introduce it and the members to the congregation. (Learn more at [Starting Your Love Resists Team.](#))

## Sample Order of Service

### Call to Worship

Come, let us seek justice. Come, family: Let us restore our streets. Come, friends and foe: Let us love mercy. Come, ancestors and descendants: Let us repair the breach. Come, persons from all faiths and none: Let us walk humbly with a God of many names.

ALL: Come, courage and doubt, together in power. (Micah 6:8 and Isaiah 58:12)

- **Welcome:** Whoever you are, wherever you come from, you are welcome here. Here we create sacred space together, and fortify ourselves for resistance against oppression. We build our community and grow courageous love.

### Opening Words/Chalice Lighting

By Judith L. Quarles

*At this hour, in small towns and big cities, in single rooms and ornate sanctuaries, many of our sibling Unitarian Universalist congregations are also lighting a flaming chalice. As we light our chalice today, let us remember that we are part of a great community of faith.*

*May this dancing flame inspire us to fill our lives with the Unitarian Universalist ideals of love, justice and truth.*

## Recite/Read Congregational Covenant

### Opening Hymn

- [Ella's Song](#) by Sweet Honey in the Rock
  - [Lyrics](#) (scroll down)
- Andra Day [Rise Up](#)
  - [Lyrics](#)

### Joys & Sorrows

Let us lift up today the freedom fighters among us, the people who inspire us, and those who are suffering from injustice.

### Prayer/Meditation

Love Resists by Rev. Eric Cherry

Sanctuary is not negotiable, but a divine and timeless promise.  
Souls will always shelter souls against cruel power.  
Caesar will always justify merciless acts.  
But Love Resists.

May we all be welcomed, at home, well-loved, and safe.  
May we all know the care of beloved community,  
embraced by the faithful of many traditions.

Hear our Prayer: release our people who are incarcerated and detained  
Release the strength of hospitality and generosity in every heart.  
Release the power of faithful resistance in service of our prayer.

Hear our prayer, those of you imprisoned.  
Hear our prayer, All you who are part of the circle of Love.  
Hear our prayer, All you who are colluding with brutal authoritarianism.  
Hear our prayer: Holy One.

Release our siblings, neighbors, parents, and children.  
Let love overcome cruelty.  
The promise of Sanctuary will be fulfilled  
As Love Resists

### Story for All Ages

- [The Farmer's Legacy](#)
- [The Answer is Under Construction](#) by Sarah E. Skwire
- [Frances Harper Bends the Arc](#) by Jessica York

## Hymn

- [Would you harbor me?](#) By Sweet Honey in the Rock
- [Lyrics](#) by Ysaye M. Barnwell

## Reflection/Reading

[The Breath of Life is not Mine Alone](#) by Rev. Kristin Harper

## Sermon/Homily

Consider sharing a story of encounter – with oppression and resistance. See [Theology of Resistance](#) for inspiration

- Consider Sharing the pulpit with someone from an impacted community (could be a congregational member or an advocate/organizer from your community)

## Love Resists Call

If you have a Love Resists Team introduce them here. Consider making a call to join Love Resists.

*Over 15,000 UUs have signed the Declaration of Conscience that states: “We will oppose any and all unjust government actions to deport, register, discriminate, or despoil. As people of conscience, we declare our commitment to translate our values into action ...on the side of love with the most vulnerable among us. We welcome and invite all to join in this commitment for justice.”*

Invite congregants to put their thumb on the wrist of the person next to them and feel their pulse and say

ALL: *We will resist. Love Resists. The Time is Now.*

## Special Offering

Consider a special offering for a group in your community that is providing services for or advocating for and organizing people dealing with systemic oppression and criminalization.

## Closing Hymn

We Would be One (Singing the Living Tradition #318)

## Extinguishing the Chalice

### Closing Words

[To Make Ready for the Coming Day](#) by Rev. Bill Hamilton-Holway