

Gathering: Liturgy for Vital Congregations

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On July 27, 2024, Parroquia San José and North Shore Presbyterian Church collaborated to host the "*Gathering: Liturgy for Vital Congregations*," an event made possible by the generous support of the Congregational Vitality initiative of the Presbytery of Milwaukee.

This gathering served as a valuable platform for reflection upon the proposal put forth by the Latin American Network of Liturgy, known as "Red Crearte," which has recently established a presence in the United States through "Red Crearte US."

The Reverend Gerardo Oberman, coordinator of this network and pastor of the Reformed Church of Argentina, delivered a keynote address emphasizing the critical importance of prioritizing "a deep and intercultural liturgical renewal in churches that exist within multicultural contexts" as a fundamental aspect of evangelization.

Following a review of illustrative examples found within the PCUSA's own Presbyterian hymnals, which incorporate hymns from Latin America, Africa, and Asia (a selection of which were sung during the event), participants engaged in two workshops focused on the development of intercultural and bilingual liturgical resources. These workshops provided instruction on crafting prayers and songs that could effectively bridge diverse forms of worship, fostering a greater appreciation for the rich tapestry of traditions present within our presbytery.

The gathering was attended by members representing five different churches within the Presbytery of Milwaukee, encompassing individuals who speak English, Spanish, and Portuguese.

Events of this nature not only enrich the spiritual lives of participants but also contribute to the expansion of theological perspectives and liturgical diversity within our congregations. Furthermore, they offer a glimpse into alternative approaches to evangelization that have the potential to enhance the vitality of both our local churches and our presbytery as a whole.

Below we share one of the prayers written in this workshop:

Antífona para Segundo Domingo de Adviento 2024
Antiphonal prayer for the Second Sunday of Advent 2024

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Liturgista/ Liturgist: In the times of Joe Biden's fourth year of government, prior to the presidential election, with Donald Trump and Kamala Harris as candidates, the people groan to God: "Voz de quien clama en el desierto:"

Comunidad/Community: ¡Justicia, igualdad y compasión!

L: Prepare ye the way of Jesus;

C: Prepare the path through the forest and along the lake

L: Enderecen sus caminos:

C: Esperanza en amor construyendo sendas de inclusión.

L: Every valley shall be filled,

C: Make the streets of the cities safe by day and night

L: Todo monte y colina será nivelado,

C: Anhelamos tiempos que reformen nuestra condición

L: And the crooked shall be made staight,

C: Make our souls long for justice

L: Y los caminos ásperos allanados;

C: Milagros construimos con la fe en Dios

L: Y verá toda carne la salvación de Dios.

C: And all flesh shall see the salvation of God!