

STUDY GUIDE



for



Service of
REPENTANCE
for Racial Injustice

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This study guide is meant to help further the healing and growth that can come from conversations shared on difficult topics. We acknowledge that such conversations can cause discomfort, stir vulnerability, and lead us to unpredictable places. We emphasize the word conversation because we confess we have too often treated the reality of racism as an issue to be understood rather than eradicated.

This study begins with a video from our Bishop, The Rt. Rev. J. Russell Kendrick, that gives us a glimpse into the creation of this service: the “how” and “why” for this service and how it continues to inspire and unfold under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

You can find the video from Bishop Kendrick here: https://youtu.be/4zRETR_W_J8

1. As Bishop Kendrick and Bishop Roaf modeled for us in the Service Recording [video mark 29:05-34:20], the topic of racism is not an “issue” but instead a conversation and call to action. Part of our walk as followers of Jesus (discipleship) is the ongoing need to discover and repent of categorizing people or groups as “other”. Share how this may have been evident in your life or cultural upbringing. In what way does looking through this lens make you uncomfortable?
2. In the service, specifically the intercessions, we invoke the idea of contrition and what it might look like in our lives: naming where we might use our privilege justly, the places we can stop our participation and perpetuation of anything that prevents the realization of God’s Beloved Community. There is hope in the earnestness of our contrition. What can you do with what you have felt and learned in the service or in your conversation today to further your own hope and repair of our world?
3. The conversation between Bishop Kendrick and Bishop Roaf ended with the use of a Hawaiian reconciliatory concept, *Ho’oponopono*, that includes these steps:
 - Step 1: Repentance – I’m sorry.
 - Step 2: Ask Forgiveness – Please forgive me.
 - Step 3: Gratitude – Thank you.
 - Step 4: Love – I love you.

How might these words and actions transform our life together if we make a conscious effort to reframe our own hurts or misunderstanding using this mode of reconciliation? Name specific ways you can call out and change the unjust or racist assumptions, words, or structures in your life and social circles and in our life together.

NOTES:

Service recording can be found here: <https://youtu.be/qjClW8pJeX0>
Service bulletin can be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/4k83ns2v>

