

# **A REFLECT-DISCUSS-ACT SERIES**

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9**

## **PART 3: ACT**

**HOW DO WE, AS PEOPLE OF FAITH, RESPOND TO CHRISTIAN NATIONALISM IN OUR OWN CONTEXTS AND COMMUNITIES?**

**Building on the previous sessions, we will identify action steps to amplify our understanding of the Gospel.**

# WELCOME

Let us know who's here tonight  
By entering your name and  
congregation in the chat

# OPENING PRAYERS

The Book of Common Prayer

## In Times of Conflict:

O God, you have bound us together in a common life.  
Help us, in the midst of our struggles for justice and truth,  
to confront one another without hatred or bitterness,  
and to work together with mutual forbearance and respect;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. (BCP p824 #28)

# OPENING PRAYERS

For those with whom we disagree:

O God, the Father of all, whose Son commanded us to love our enemies:

Lead them and us from prejudice to truth:

deliver them and us from hatred, cruelty, and revenge;

open our hearts to conversation and honest dialogue;

heal divisions and create understanding;

and in your good time enable us all to stand reconciled before you,

through Jesus Christ our Lord. (BCP p816 #6)

# OPENING PRAYERS

For social justice:

Almighty God, who created us in your image:  
Grant us grace fearlessly to contend against evil  
and to make no peace with oppression;  
and, that we may reverently use our freedom,  
help us to employ it in the maintenance of justice  
in our communities and among the nations,  
to the glory of your holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

(BCP p260 #21)

WHAT IS  
CHRISTIAN  
NATIONALISM?

# Christian Nationalism is...

“Christian nationalism—the belief that America is God’s chosen nation and must be defended as such—serves as a powerful predictor of intolerance toward immigrants, racial minorities, and non-Christians.”

Kristin Kobes duMez, author of *Jesus and John Wayne*

AS PEOPLE OF FAITH...

What is our goal?



# REFLECT-DISCUSS-ACT

What did we experience in the  
REFLECT session and in the  
DISCUSS sessions?

What were our takeaways?

ACT:

What's our goal for tonight?

ACT:

What's our goal for tonight?

When we are done,  
what are the definitions, tools, and language we need  
to challenge the distortions of the Christian faith  
by the Christian Nationalists?

THE STATEMENT

Christian Faith and  
Democracy

# So we ask:

What does it look like for  
Christian Nationalism to distort:

- Truth and Integrity
- Loving the Stranger and Enemy
- Solidarity and the Common Good

# SCENARIO

Al, one of my neighbors, has been deliberately spreading lies and misinformation about the Haitian immigrants in Springfield, even after we showed him the leaders of that community stating otherwise. He just refuses to listen to the correct info.

What do I say to Al,  
as a person of faith with integrity?

## On Truth and Integrity.

We are called to speak truth, put away falsehood, and walk in integrity (Prov. 11:3; Eph. 4:25). Jesus said, “you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free” (John 8:32); therefore, the opposite of truth is captivity. A healthy democracy rests upon a foundation of truth. For that reason, we must work to foster trust among citizens, to elect leaders with demonstrated integrity, and, with gratitude for the tens of thousands of election workers who labor to ensure that all voices are heard, to keep our elections safe, secure, and fair.

# SCENARIO

A friend argues that if illegals want to come into this country they need to speak English first. And they shouldn't come here anyway, and they're taking all of our jobs.

Where do I even begin in my response to him?



## **On Loving the Stranger and the Enemy.**

Jesus teaches us that loving God and loving neighbor are inseparable and that loving our neighbors includes loving the stranger (Lk. 10:25-37) and our enemies (Mt. 5:44). We are obligated to reach out to those with whom we disagree, to empathize with those of different backgrounds and experiences, and to be hospitable to those who do not share our beliefs.

# SCENARIO

My aunt Velma is deeply concerned about all of the resources going to the illegal immigrants when her husband, a US Veteran, can't get services to help him at the VA.

How do I explain to her that it's not an either/or situation?

## **On Solidarity and the Common Good.**

Love of neighbor calls for the inclusion of all our fellow neighbors in the political process. Democratic participation enables individuals to live in service to, and in solidarity with one another-especially the marginalized among us. As Christians, we are called not merely to pursue self-interest, but to prioritize the collective good.

# WHAT NOW?

This is a kairos time, to use biblical language— a moment that can change time, altering events for decades, even generations to come. This electoral season, each one of us must stand for democracy's future. We must resist cynicism, apathy, and fear; withdrawing from the electoral process only risks consolidating power in the hands of those who would abuse it. We cannot transform democracy unless we save it. As Christians, we are people of hope. The resurrection of Jesus Christ powerfully attests that life overcomes death, and that what is to come is far better than what is; "Weeping may endure for the night, but joy comes in the morning." Pressing forward with confidence in God's sustaining care, we call on all Christians and people of good will to work together to reawaken democratic spirit and improve American democracy.