

We Have Come ~ Acknowledging The Reality Of Sexual Violence **by the Rev Moira Finley**

This prayer is not necessarily one for survivors to pray. It is, instead, for those who have had the privilege of living free from these experiences, perhaps with blinders on, unaware of the reality of rape and sexual violence in our communities, and around the world. During this prayer you might consider lighting candles (or inviting survivors and allies to do so) to symbolize the experience of all those who live this reality in their daily lives.

One: We have come...

Many: to listen, and to hear things that will unsettle us, and make us uncomfortable, challenging things we think about the world.

One: We have come...

Many: to hear the guilt, fear, and shame that survivors carry, the stories of those who have survived things we cannot begin to imagine.

One: We have come...

Many: to listen to what keeps our siblings up at night, to listen with compassion, and love.

One: We have come...

Many: to be present for survivors, doing our own spiritual work, so that we might listen without judgement or pity.

One: We have come...

Many: to hear the memories, and nightmares, and flashbacks; the violation, cruelty, and suffering.

One: We have come...

Many: to remember that not everyone survives the violation of rape and sexual assault, and that the grief and pain overwhelm many who seek to escape through self-harm, and suicide.

One: We have come...

Many: to commit ourselves to the messy, difficult, sometimes excruciating work of changing the world, to the path that Christ showed us, the work of making the world whole.

One: We have come...

Many: to remember that taking small, uncertain steps is an okay way to begin, that we do not have to do everything, but that we must do something, that we must listen, and then raise our voices for the world is depending on us.

All: Amen.

Hymn ~ “We Have Come”

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(this was written to be sung acapella)

a cappella, with drumming

words and music by Christopher Grundy

♩ = 170



We have come by way of strug_ gle, We have come
 We have come to lay our bur-dens down, we have come
 We have come to spread your ways of peace, we have come

7



by way of pain, we have come by all your stead-fast love,
 to shed our shame, we have come to taste your bound-less grace
 to break the chains, we have come to stand with Jes us,

13

To Coda

1.2.



O re-vive our souls a - gain.
 and to rise as peop - le changed.
 lead us on in - to your reign,

19



lead us on in-to your reign, lead us on in-to your reign.