



BOSTON COLLEGE

FORUM ON RACIAL JUSTICE IN AMERICA

Service of Hope and Reconciliation



Wednesday, October 7, 2020
Simboli Hall Chapel

ORDER OF SERVICE



Introduction

Vincent D. Rougeau, J.D.
Dean, Boston College Law School
and inaugural Director of the Forum on Racial Justice in America

Opening Hymn

HEALING

By Richard Smallwood

Welcome and Opening Prayer

Rev. William P. Leahy, S.J.
University President

First Reading

from **THE CROSS AND THE LYNCHING TREE**

Proclaimed by **Juan A. Concepción**, '96,
M.Ed. '97, J.D. & M.B.A '03

“Unfortunately, during the course of 2,000 years of Christian history, this symbol of salvation has been detached from any reference to the ongoing suffering and oppression of human beings—those whom Ignacio Ellacuría, the Salvadoran martyr, called “the crucified peoples of history.”

The cross has been transformed into a harmless, non-offensive ornament that Christians wear around their necks. Rather than reminding us of the ‘cost of discipleship,’ it has become a form of ‘cheap grace,’ an easy way to salvation that doesn’t force us to confront the power of Christ’s message and mission.

Until we can see the cross and the lynching tree together, until we can identify Christ with a ‘recrucified’ black body hanging from a lynching tree, there can be no genuine understanding of Christian identity in America, and no deliverance from the brutal legacy of slavery and white supremacy.”

– James Cone

Response

PSALM 22

Respond: *My God, My, God, Why Have You Abandoned Me?*

Second Reading

JEREMIAH 29:8-14

Proclaimed by **Leah DeCosta**
Associate Vice President, Alumni Relations

*For thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel:
Do not be deceived by the prophets and diviners who are among you;
do not listen to those among you who dream dreams,
for they prophesy lies to you in my name; I did not send them.*

*For thus says the Lord:
Only after seventy years have elapsed for Babylon will I deal with you
and fulfill for you my promise to bring you back to this place.
For I know well the plans I have in mind for you,
plans for your welfare and not for woe,
so as to give you a future of hope.*

*When you call me,
and come and pray to me, I will listen to you.
When you look for me, you will find me.
Yes, when you seek me with all your heart
I will let you find me, and I will change your lot;
I will gather you together from all the nations
and all the places to which I have banished you,
and bring you back to the place from which I have exiled you.*

Reflection

M. Shawn Copeland, Ph.D.
Professor Emerita, Theology Department, Morrissey College of Arts and Sciences

Prayers of Petition

Proclaimed by **Rev. James M. Hairston, '03; Christian Guma, '21;**
Chinenye Ugocha, '21; Tenniel Wilson, '22;

Respond: *Forgive us, O Lord,
heal our hearts and minds with your grace and mercy,
and bring justice to all.*

**Statements of Commitment
and Call to Action**

Rev. Gregory Kalscheur, S.J.
Dean, Morrissey College of Arts and Sciences

O. Ernesto Valiente, Ph.D.
Associate Professor, School of Theology and Ministry

Christian Guma & Chinenye Ugocha
Class of 2021

Marcela Norton
Employee Relations Officer, Dining Services

Closing Prayer

Rev. William P. Leahy, S.J.

Closing Hymn

MY WORLD NEEDS YOU

