Exploring Gospel NONVIOLENCE - 5

**What is nonviolence?**

for three voices which could be used during a service or to start a discussion.

Voice 1: What is nonviolence?
Voice 2: It is a strategy for social change that rejects violence.
Voice 3: It is a philosophy of active peacemaking.
Voice 2: It is a spiritual discipline.
Voice 3: It is a pragmatic choice based on what works.
Voice 2: It is an active response to violence.
Voice 3: It is a force more powerful than violence.
(pause)

Voice 1: Why are we talking about nonviolence here in church?
Voice 3: Because God’s will is for peace.
Voice 2: Because God calls us to turn swords into ploughshares.
Voice 3: Because God is the source of power.
Voice 2: Because God is the source of love.
Voice 3: Because God is love.
(pause)

Voice 1: Yes, but why are we talking about nonviolence at Mass today?
Voice 3: Because today is Peace Sunday.
Voice 2: Because Pope Francis has asked us to think about nonviolence.
Voice 3: Because nonviolence offers a style of politics for peace.
Voice 2: Because we need better tools for solving conflicts.
Voice 3: Because nonviolence can turn enemies into friends.
(pause)
Voice 1: How do Christians walk the talk of nonviolence in everyday life?
Voice 2: By working for justice.
Voice 3: By trusting in God rather than trusting in weapons.
Voice 2: By practising creative and disarming ways of responding to a crisis.
Voice 3: By actively and publicly resisting war.
Voice 2: By building relationships with those who are supposed to be enemies.
Voice 3: By showing more love.
(pause)

Voice 1: What is nonviolence?
Voice 2: The way of Jesus.
Voice 3: A force more powerful than violence.
Voice 2: The way of love.

adapted from Prayers and Practices of Nonviolence,
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Pax Christi
www.paxchristi.org.uk

Catholic Nonviolence Initiative
www.nonviolencejustpeace.net