

Additional Ideas for Leaders Week 6
Theme: Practice Repentance
by Reverend Emily Meyer, Director of [The Ministry Lab](#)

This week's texts: Luke 19:28-49 (Jesus' Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem) and Luke 21:14-23:56 (The Passion Narrative), offer us radically different interpretations of revolution and love (not to mention "triumph"!).

With children, families, or an intergenerational group you might explore:

Invite participants to define the terms: "revolution" and "love" - for themselves, or based on ideas shared in this week's Prayer Practice.

Have **fun with kids** making a lot of mini-revolutions: twirl in place, sit-and-spin, pirouettes: how many different ways can they spin around.

- Reflect on how that makes them see the world differently.
- How many "revolutions" will it take for us to see the world, and everyone in it, with the eyes of God's love?

With **all ages**, you might explore the three parts of the egg, revisiting this week's Contemplative Practice:

- Find all sorts of fun ways to play with eggs in this [Great Idea](#).
- Consider:
 - the brittleness of the ego:
 - what needs to be "cracked open"?
 - You might share Leonard Cohen's *Anthem* from his 1992 album, *The Future*; especially the famous "that's how the light gets in" quote; hear the song and read up on it [here](#). Cohen connects Love and revolution pretty neatly!
 - the messiness of community:
 - It's rarely perfect: where are you nurtured and held?
 - What needs revolution?
 - the "golden center" of Divine Love that resides in each of us is the core of who we are, yet is simultaneously at work throughout the world in all times and places - and what all this has to do with revolution or "working for liberation" as discussed [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#).
 - How can we develop our connection to our [True Self](#)/our Christ Self/our Divine core?

- How does this empower us to spill out/enact Love in our community and world?
 - See the quote from Hedi Moussavi in The Family Partnership's article about him, [here](#).
- Consider what eggs have to tell us about the Trinity: the three parts of God interwoven in love as explored [here](#).
 - For another use of egg imagery, see Richard Rohr's [Cosmic Egg](#).

With youth through adults, consider:

Move from definitions of “revolution” and “love” into how they see love being essential or central to revolution:

- What does this mean?
- Whose idea is this?
- How does this work?
- How does submitting to execution (in [a truly horrible way](#); trauma warning in that link - read only if prepared) reveal God’s Love?
- What does this self-sacrificial love mean? ([Philippians 2:1-11](#) is illustrative.)

But how does all of this tie into revolution? Jesus’ Triumphal Entry did not spark a revolution - of the military/political kind; the disappointment felt by those who desired that form of revolution may have been a factor in getting him crucified (the public turned against him so Pilate and the Sanhedrin felt not only that they could get away with it, but that they had “the mandate of the people” to do so.) But certainly Jesus was crucified because his love for all God’s people put him at odds with the systems and powers of Rome and Temple authorities who were getting rich and comfy under Roman rule. Jesus’ [drive for justice](#) - born from his love for all people, especially the least and the lowly - got him killed.

Image: *Cooked spaghetti noodles are difficult to line up in perfectly straight lines, so uncooked noodles might demonstrate how much easier walking in God’s way is, when our focus is on God and living God’s will of kindness and compassion for creation and neighbors*



All-age sign-making activity:

(this could feed directly into [Palm Sunday](#), if you want!)

- Ask people to recall an interaction where harm was done to others - either by themselves or observed by them

- (1) Consider the **“warning signs” of impending hurt:**
 - *specific words or actions
 - *signs in the person hurt that they were becoming afraid or uncomfortable
 - *body language of other people in the scene, who didn’t know how to intervene
 - *signs in your own body (sweaty palms, fast/shallow breathing, churning stomach, etc.) that you were acting out of fear, anger, frustration, or other harm-inducing emotions
- Make posters or drawings of these actions, feelings or hurts with a giant U-turn or red line drawn through them.

- (2) **Consider signs of hope** that the relationship has been or is being restored:
 - *actions taken to intentionally repair the hurt
 - *different actions or words that can be used, in future
 - *words or acts of grace and forgiveness from the person/s hurt
 - *visions of how this relationship or the community involved might look when relationships are more trustworthy, gracious, kind and equitable
- Make posters or drawings of these areas of reconciliation, hope, community renewal, etc.
- Place the signs in the yards of the church building or peoples’ homes (you might include a bumper sticker or other congregation-identifying tag on these!) and/or wave them in a [Palm Sunday](#) parade.

For a really current ways to put Revolutionary Love into action:

- Hollaback and Asian Americans Advancing Justice (AAAJ) are offering [free bystander intervention training](#).
- See Hedi Moussavi, above.