



Following the Rainbow:

**Integrating LGBTQ+ Inclusion
into Worship**

Questions for Reflection:

When have you felt most alive during worship?

What was that like for you? How did it feel...in your body? In your heart?

What was the context?

Building a culture....

- Grounded in Relationship
 - Resisting problem mentality
 - Moving from issue to individual/community
 - We, not us and them
- Celebration
- Mutual need
- Understanding and Resisting Spiritual Violence

From “Queer Virtue” by Liz Edman (p.52)

“We are seldom born into queer families, so many of us spend years alone before we find queer community. Those who would terrorize us have thus crafted weapons that pick us off individually before we have found our people.

Though queer people certainly are forced to deal with external threats of violence, the terrorism directed at us relies heavily on weapons that we ingest with our minds, hearts, and souls. They are spiritual weapons. Delivered relentlessly over a course of years, these weapons prove to be so spiritually corrosive that many queer people take their own lives to escape the inflicted pain and internalized shame.

This is terrorism at work. It is Spiritual terrorism and the voices most urgently needed to combat this terrorism are the voices of religious authority.

It is good for churches to be inclusive of queer people, but it is not enough. It is important for clergy to be pastoral to queer people, but it is not enough. What is needed now is a bold, pastoral, explicitly Christian response that ruptures the false Binaries that are employed to demonize queer identity.

We must preach not only that the violence is wrong but why it is wrong and anti-Christian. We must name these deadly Binaries as an affront to the God who we worship and create liturgical moments that honour the lives of queer people - those who have survived and those who have not.”

Building a culture.....

- Grounded in Relationship
 - Resisting problem mentality
 - Moving from issue to individual/community
 - We, not us and them
- Celebration
- Mutual need
- Understanding and Resisting Spiritual Violence
- Pride

Worship Considerations:

- Representation: What stories are being told?
 - Not only as special/exceptional, but happenstance...normal
- Language/Pronouns
 - Siblings in Christ, friends, beloved
 - High/low voices
- Praying with the LGBTQ+ community

Worship Considerations:

- Relevant Rituals
 - Naming Ceremonies, Coming Out, Transitions
- Hymn Content
 - What might Queer folk long to sing?
- Events highlighted and supported

Resources:

- “Queer Virtue” by Liz Edman
- Queer Bible Commentary
- Songs for the Holy Other
- QueerHymns.org
- Affirm United
- Queertheology.com
- Queergrace.com

Event: Beyond Binaries, May 9, 2020 - right here!!