



LIBERTY
COMMUNITY CHURCH

HEALING THE PLANET HEALING OURSELVES

SEPTEMBER 17-19, 2021

with Rev. Drs. Ralph and Alikea Galloway

BLESSING THE MISSISSIPPI

A gathering at the Mississippi to honor her
and offer our blessings of peace and healing.

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 19, 2021, 11am

- 11:00 Opening Ceremony
- 11:20 Connection to the Earth, Sky, and Water
- 11:30 Raptor Center Demonstration
- 12:00 Blessing of the River
- 12:15 Commitment Ceremony
- 12:30 Closing

"EMBRACING LOVE ETHIC MEANS THAT WE UTILIZE
ALL DIMENSIONS OF LOVE—CARE, COMMITMENT, TRUST,
RESPONSIBILITY, RESPECT, AND KNOWLEDGE—
IN OUR EVERYDAY LIVES."

—bell hooks, *All About Love: New Visions*





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"THERE CAN BE NO LOVE WITHOUT JUSTICE."

—bell hooks, *All About Love: New Visions*

WE HAVE ENVISIONED and acted to expand Liberty's work to include planetary health. During our three days together, we have explored ways in which human health and planetary health are connected – joining a worldwide movement where our interconnection is celebrated, and our disconnection is examined spiritually and scientifically. Together we have committed to each other and our planet that we will continue to learn, laugh, heal, sing, and tell stories while we heal the earth and heal ourselves.

THE GATHERING HAS BEEN A TIME TO HEAL BY:

1. Resting in the company of the community;
2. Remembering that we are interconnected; recalling that the planet is a beloved ancestral relative;
3. Reviving from isolation, white supremacy, and exclusivity; and
4. Resisting planetary domination.

**"THE CHOICE TO LOVE IS A CHOICE TO CONNECT—
TO FIND OURSELVES IN THE OTHER."**

—bell hooks, *All About Love: New Visions*

WHY IS LIBERTY FOCUSING ON THE ENVIRONMENT?

People of color have environmental experiences that differ from those of whites because the environment, like race, is both a social and a cultural construct. Throughout history, those whom society has identified as white have appropriated land and resources, controlling the movement and hindering the economic development for people of color. Environmental racism harms communities of color. It is just as real as the racism that exists in housing, employment, and education.

Environmental racism is racial discrimination in environmental policymaking. It is racial discrimination in the enforcement of regulations and laws. It is racial discrimination in the deliberate targeting of communities of color for toxic waste disposal and the siting of polluting industries. It is racial discrimination in the official sanctioning of the life-threatening presence of poisons and pollutants in communities of color. And it is racial discrimination in the history of excluding people of color from the mainstream environmental groups, decision-making boards, commissions, and regulatory bodies.

The Gathering has created space and time to discern individual and collective calls to action, to heal the planet, and heal ourselves. **WHAT IS YOUR CALLING?**