

Nicki Arnold-Swindle ([00:05](#)):

What does hope look like in our changing landscape? What color is hope for eight weeks queer leaders of faith have reflected on colors and themes from Gilbert Baker's original pride flag. I'm Nickie Arnold-Swindle. . I use the preferred pronouns. She or they, the original flag had eight stripes. Pink stood for sex red for life orange, for healing yellow, for the sun green for nature, turquoise for magic blue for harmony and purple for spirit, you are invited to hope in color with us.

Alysha Laperche ([01:00](#)):

My name is Alysha Laperche and my pronouns are they them and theirs.

Sophia Jackson ([01:06](#)):

My name is Sophia Jackson.

Andy Deeb ([01:08](#)):

I'm Andy. I'm a transgender man and I use he him pronouns.

Melissa Guthrie Loy ([01:14](#)):

My name is Melissa Guthrie Loy. My pronouns are she and her.

YaNi Davis ([01:19](#)):

My name is YaNi AKA, the peace president and my preferred pronoun is simply my name Yani.

Luther Young ([01:25](#)):

My name is Luther young. My pronouns are he him.

Rev. CJ ([01:28](#)):

I am the Reverend Chaim Rodriguez, but most people simply know me as CJ. My pronouns are he him and his,

Rev. Allen V. Harris ([01:36](#)):

This is the Reverend Allen V Harris

Alysha Laperche ([01:39](#)):

and Gilbert Baker assigned the word sex to the color. Pink

Sophia Jackson ([01:44](#)):

red as the symbol that heralds the vibrancy of life in the pride flag is the promise of healing. It is the rejoicing and healing already given and the healing still yet to come.

Melissa Guthrie Loy ([02:04](#)):

I'm hoping in color. This week's color is yellow. Gilbert Baker assigned sunlight to this color

YaNi Davis ([02:14](#)):

in green life, abundance growth.

Luther Young ([02:18](#)):

on the color turquoise and the theme magic and art.

Rev. CJ ([02:24](#)):

The word unity is synonymous with harmony. When I consider the world as a unified whole, I know that harmony does not require seniors in a world of diverse life, climate and land. I feel a connection and harmony to all things through spirit within.

Rev. Allen V. Harris ([02:42](#)):

And my color is purple. And my word is spirit.

Alysha Laperche ([02:47](#)):

And thinking about humility as a queer person can be difficult at times because so many of us have experienced humiliation.

Sophia Jackson ([02:58](#)):

What I'd like to happen for the LGBTQ folks who identify as Christian is an ability to create your own transformation of heart, because you understand that you are the beauty and the glory of God. Your tears are as much worship as your laughter. Your lament justice cherish as praise.

Melissa Guthrie Loy ([03:23](#)):

The gate is an invitation to be out fully ourselves, living full abundant.

YaNi Davis ([03:32](#)):

But as I sit and think about colors, I don't just think about the green of life, abundance and growth. I also think about red for the blood that has been shed and black for the skin of people that have been hurt the most by Western patriarchal, sexist, heteronormative, unjust, and unfair systems, practices, and structures.

Luther Young ([03:55](#)):

Even when people think we are worthless and need to be discarded, God would never throw us away that God can and will revive us.

Rev. CJ ([04:04](#)):

Harmony has everything to do with learning to live as a member of the family of humankind, with respect, love, and acceptance for all.

Andy Deeb ([04:17](#)):

If we lean on God in our times of suffering, we come to see the God is right where she promised she would be God grieves with us. God suffers with us. God walks right beside us and leads us into a place of healing.

Melissa Guthrie Loy ([04:32](#)):

May Gates be invitations to justice, may Gates remind us of places of grace. May Gates be entrances into community.

Luther Young ([04:46](#)):

Celebrate the uniqueness of you because you are the image of God. Celebrating yourself is a way of giving worship and praise to God, never forsake God, because God has not forsaken you.

Rev. Allen V. Harris ([05:00](#)):

But I still have to acknowledge that there is a reliance somewhere within my very core, being upon the Holy spirit, that is a source of strength and courage, and allows me to do some risk-taking.

YaNi Davis ([05:15](#)):

The blood has been shed for racial equity. The blood has been shed for the LGBTQ plus community. The blood has been shed for all of us.

Luther Young ([05:27](#)):

Our experiences are valid. Our perspectives are valued and our dreams are viable. We are full fledged members of God's strange spiritual family.

Rev. CJ ([05:40](#)):

We resurrect our community. When we stand up for justice and speak truth to power, the queer community has a long legacy of being in the resurrecting business.

Rev. Allen V. Harris ([05:52](#)):

Turning our perspective on God, upside down and about how God understands views sees us.

Nicki Arnold-Swindle ([06:05](#)):

According to Baker, the rainbow flag expressed joy, beauty, and power. How can we individually and collectively hope in color represent God's beauty and diversity of the rainbow and celebrate LGBTQ plus pride.

Marian Edmonds-Allen ([06:30](#)):

Hi, my name is Reverend Marian Edmonds-Allen, and my pronouns are she and they. I'm the executive director of parody, a New York city based national nonprofit that works at the intersection of faith and LGBT. We build bridges most often trying to span divides that can be filled with emotion, hurt and rejection on both sides. I joke that when I speak to a group, depending on the audience, I will scare someone. You see, I'm a queer pastor. And for queer folks, hearing that I'm a person of faith, usually sends ripples of dismay to the audience. And when I speak to audiences where faith is a focus and share that I'm a gender diverse bisexual woman, married to a woman. Well, you can imagine the reaction that happens there. When I come out as either a person of faith or as a queer person, someone's world is rocked like the colors of the pride flag. My multiple identities are part of the beautiful hole. That is the person I am, that you are beautifully diverse with each color, making the others more vibrant and strong.

Marian Edmonds-Allen ([07:47](#)):

I believe that queer people uniquely reflect God. And I believe that queer people of faith uniquely show the power of Christ's resurrection, who else is told that by being who they are, they can't follow Jesus. And yet queer Christians, not only follow Jesus, but live and proclaim the gospel, showing the world of fuller understanding of who God is and how God loves us. All my hope as we celebrate pride, 2020 is that we seek to celebrate ourselves and each other in ways that invite the hurting needy world into our queer world of resilience, strength, beauty, and love. Queer people have a way of living, living love, courage, and hope in a way that inspires others to be their authentic selves. It's a gift that God gave us. And it's a gift I invite you to share.

Marian Edmonds-Allen ([08:51](#)):

I invite you to think about making a friend who is very from you, someone who has different politics perhaps, or has different opinions on an issue you care about and then lean in safely, of course, but lean in and listen with curiosity and compassion. What our world needs right now is love and also faith and a whole lot of hope who you are, your beautiful rainbow self of intertwining identities. You are a human bridge made of the colors of hope, a bridge that connects people in ways that few can, you are blessed to be a blessing. Thanks be to God.

Cameron Van Kooten Laughead ([09:38](#)):

My name is Cameron Van Kooten Laughead, my pronouns are he him, hs and I'm the executive director of room for all the organization seeking LGBTQ justice and affirmation in the reformed church in America, in the reformed church in America. One of our foundational documents is the Heidelberg catechism, a 450 year old set of questions and answers that provide a fairly comprehensive overview of reform to doctrine and theology. The first question is to answer begins with this. What is your only comfort in life and in death answer that I am not my own, but belong body and soul in life and in death to my faithful savior, Jesus Christ. This refrain is very well known in my faith circles, but I believe that for queer people of faith, it holds a special message of hope. It's not only our souls that belong to God, but our bodies too.

Cameron Van Kooten Laughead ([10:35](#)):

Maybe this sounds like a total, no brainer, but the more I think about it, the more radical it seems our bodies are queer bodies or lesbian, transgender, bisexual, non-binary gait, intersex bodies, strong, weak black Brown, white bodies, old young bodies bodies that make us intimately human, messy, beautiful, intricate, always changing bodies with all the needs and urges that come along with those, those belong to God, to the Heidelberg. Catechism makes no qualifications on which souls in which bodies belong to God. Doesn't say that a soul must have no troubles or a body must be CIS heteronormative. No, our bodies, our being the long, I find this immensely hope-filled I invite you to join me in celebrating your belonging no matter what colors of hope, speak to your soul, no matter how your body shows up in the world, you belong body and soul hope in color hope here. And now, as we hope

Nicki Arnold-Swindle ([11:54](#)):

for tomorrow, hope for wellness and wholeness and the inbreaking of God's kingdom, it's an expectant, engaging practice and process. This hope Gilbert Baker's life story like that of the gay rights movement is one of resilience and transformation. You are resilient. We are resilient. May we see and feel, and taste and touch and hear hope within us and around us and between us may the God of hope, fill you with all the joy and peace as you trust in God, so that you may overcome with hope by the power of the Holy spirit. Amen.

Alysha Laperche ([13:00](#)):

Holy God and companion in our process. We thank you for mercy. That renews each day, God, I praise and thank you that my life is hidden with Christ in you. God is a God who heals and not a God who harms

Melissa Guthrie Loy ([13:23](#)):

God, grant us the serenity to accept the things. We cannot change courage to change the things we can and wisdom to know the difference.

YaNi Davis ([13:39](#)):

Dear God, we ask that systems and structures that do not speak life. May they crumble

Luther Young ([13:47](#)):

God encourage us to embrace our mystical nature, to allow your spirit to flow through us and to continue to paint the world with our beautiful queer selves.

Rev. CJ ([14:01](#)):

So let us go for this day and use our power to change and transform this world and the power of love.

Rev. Allen V. Harris ([14:09](#)):

Look at yourself as God looks at you. And may the spirit always lead you.