



## Defying Hate Resources Meditations and Readings

This short selection of suggested poetry and readings is designed to support your worship planning.

### **Meditations:**

Rumi: [The Guest House](#)

Dennis Brutus: [Somehow We Survive](#)

Adam Zagajewski: [Try to Praise the Mutilated World](#)

Claude McKay: [America](#)

Juan Felipe Herrera: [War Voyeurs](#)

### **Mediation Books:**

*Voices from the Margins* by Jacqui James and Mark D. Morrison-Reed  
*With or Without Candle Light* Victoria Safford, Ed.

### **Readings:**

#### **Franklin D. Roosevelt**

[Remarks to the Daughters of the American Revolution. Washington, D.C., April 21, 1938](#)

The text is this: Remember, remember always that all of us, and you and I especially, are descended from immigrants and revolutionists.

I am particularly glad to know that today you are making this fine appeal to the youth of America. To these rising generations, to our sons and grandsons and great-grandsons, we cannot overestimate the importance of what we are doing in this year, in our own generation, to keep alive the spirit of American democracy. The spirit of opportunity is the kind of spirit that has led us as a nation – not as a small group but as a nation – to meet the very great problems of the past.

We look for a younger generation that is going to be more American than we are. We are doing the best that we can and yet we can do better than that, we can do more than that, by

inculcating in the boys and girls of this country today some of the underlying fundamentals, the reasons that brought our immigrant ancestors to this country, the reasons that impelled our Revolutionary ancestors to throw off a fascist yoke.

**Mary Pipher:**

When Europeans arrived on this continent, they blew it with the Native Americans. They plowed over them, taking as much as they could of their land and valuables, and respecting almost nothing about the native cultures. They lost the wisdom of the indigenous peoples – wisdom about the land and connectedness to the great web of life...We have another chance with all these refugees. People come here penniless but not cultureless. They bring us gifts. We can synthesize the best of our traditions with the best of theirs. We can teach and learn from each other to produce a better America...

**Alex Morritt, Impromptu Scribe:**

For millennia, migrating birds have filled the skies, heading south in search of warmer climes and richer pickings. Conversely, these days, droves of our fellow beings struggle northbound against all odds, seeking safety and a better life. The key difference? This vast exodus of human traffic moves in one direction only. A testimony to failed foreign policy and disastrous military intervention that may have sown the seeds of European disintegration.”

**The Worship Web has many excellent selections on immigration [here](#).**