

Opening Liturgy/Responsive Reading for PTS 2017
(congregational response in **bold**)

Walls or Hugs — A message to the United States from Argentina
by Gerardo Carlos C. Oberman, 2017

Posted on February 10, 2017 by Maren Tirabassi
This is a new translation by Muftiah Martin Kimiti.

Walls or hugs

Build your wall. (Merri)
**We will climb over it
and embrace you like a brother, like a sister.**

Dig your moat. (Youth)
**We will cross somehow
and share with you our bread and our wine.**

Lock yourself inside your little world of privileges. (Merri)
**We will open the bars and we will teach you the happiness
that generates coexistence.**

Widen the crack. (Youth)
We will learn to build bridges and speak to you of diversity.

Get drunk on your fears. (Merri)
**We will not drink from that cup, but from one which
overflows with solidarity.**

Drug yourself with more consumerism. (Youth)

Perhaps someday you will discover that mere accumulation is not sufficient to achieve abundance.

Justify yourself in your religion. (Merri)

We will invite you to sing songs of encounter, of freedom, of life, of justice, of peace.

Build a temple for your exclusive faith. (Youth)

And we will tell you of the God of Jesus, of open paths and broad horizons.

Spit your xenophobic venom. (Merri)

We will continue to believe in the richness of colors and nuances.

Build your wall. (Youth)

Use your power, your strength, your money.

Make transparent your rancor, your fears, your soul empty of compassion.

Make evident your intentions of a world for few people.

Your hate won't transform us, (Merri)

We will not justify your violence,

We will not make your speech ours,

We will not return insult for insult,

We will not become like you...

Build your wall. (Youth)

One, two, three. As many as you want.

**And we will climb those walls, all the walls, every wall.
Over and over again.**

And we will come to meet you and embrace you. (Merri)
**We will look for cracks and will persist in sowing in them
seeds of love and tenderness,
those able to make new worlds bloom,
where there is room for all of us.**