

PEACE WITH JUSTICE LITURGY – YEAR B – By Rev. Melissa Hinnen

INVOCATION

Holy Holy Holy God of Justice and Peace,  
divine parent of all.

Restore in us a spirit of

Hope not fear      Justice not corruption      Peace not violence  
So that we may be agents of your love, bearing witness to your glorious salvation,  
In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, Mother of us all.

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: God asks us, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?”

**P: Here am I; send me!**

L: God asks us, “Who will visit those who are in prison and advocate for a justice system that is fair and restorative?”

**P: Here am I; send me!**

L: God asks us, “Who will welcome the stranger and recognize as family all who call to Abba, Allah, or Yahweh, regardless of country of origin or immigration status?”

**P: Here am I; send me!**

L: God asks us, “Who will heal the wounds of slavery, break the bonds of prejudice and oppression; affirm in word and action that Black lives matter.”

**P: Here am I; send me!**

L: God ask us, “Who will care for the earth and model a lifestyle rooted in stewardship, that shares and protects the goodness of creation?”

**P: Here am I; send me!**

**ALL: Lead us, Spirit of God!**

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

L: We are each complicit in systems that harm our neighbors and circumvent God’s vision of peace with justice. With the confidence of God’s children may we confess our failings to the Divine Parent.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**P: Abba God,**

**We remember the times that we could have spoken truth in love to the bully, the rude co-worker, or the racist family member but chose instead to stay comfortably silent. We confess that when injustice does not directly affect us we find it too easy to look the other way. We become frozen when we face the enormity of peace making even though we know that the Body of Christ suffers when any of our sisters and brothers suffer. Forgive us for our fear, complacency, and complicity. Encourage us to leverage our privilege and use our resources to replace unjust systems with Beloved Community.**

**(silence is held)**

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WORDS OF ASSURANCE

L: We are loved so much that God sent Jesus to us . . . not to condemn us but to be saved through him. The prophet Isaiah wrote, “your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out. “ In the name of Jesus you are forgiven.

**P: Thank you, God. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Isaiah 6:1-8

Psalm 29

Romans 8:12-17

John 3:1-17

SERMON

OUR SOCIAL CREED

We believe in God, Creator of the world; and in Jesus Christ, the Redeemer of creation. We believe in the Holy Spirit, through whom we acknowledge God’s gifts, and we repent of our sin in misusing these gifts to idolatrous ends.

We affirm the natural world as God’s handiwork and dedicate ourselves to its preservation, enhancement, and faithful use by humankind.

We joyfully receive for ourselves and others the blessings of community, sexuality, marriage, and the family.

We commit ourselves to the rights of men, women, children, youth, young adults, the aging, and people with disabilities; to improvement of the quality of life; and to the rights and dignity of all persons.

We believe in the right and duty of persons to work for the glory of God and the good of themselves and others and in the protection of their welfare in so doing; in the rights to property as a trust from God, collective bargaining, and responsible consumption; and in the elimination of economic and social distress.

We dedicate ourselves to peace throughout the world, to the rule of justice and law among nations, and to individual freedom for all people of the world.

We believe in the present and final triumph of God’s Word in human affairs and gladly accept our commission to manifest the life of the gospel in the world. Amen.

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PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE: Companion Litany to Our Social Creed

A Companion Litany to Our Social Creed

God in the Spirit revealed in Jesus Christ,  
calls us by grace

***to be renewed in the image of our Creator,  
that we may be one  
in divine love for the world.***

Today is the day  
God cares for the integrity of creation,  
wills the healing and wholeness of all life,  
weeps at the plunder of earth's goodness.

***And so shall we.***

Today is the day  
God embraces all hues of humanity,  
delights in diversity and difference,  
favors solidarity transforming strangers into friends.

***And so shall we.***

Today is the day  
God cries with the masses of starving people,  
despises growing disparity between rich and poor,  
demands justice for workers in the marketplace.

***And so shall we.***

Today is the day  
God deplores violence in our homes and streets,  
rebukes the world's warring madness,  
humbles the powerful and lifts up the lowly.

***And so shall we.***

Today is the day  
God calls for nations and peoples to live in peace,  
celebrates where justice and mercy embrace,  
exults when the wolf grazes with the lamb.

***And so shall we.***

***Today is the day  
God brings good news to the poor,  
proclaims release to the captives,  
gives sight to the blind, and  
sets the oppressed free.***

***And so shall we.***

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MISSION MOMENT: Peace with Justice Sunday Offering

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

We are heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ. Let us offer back to God now what we have inherited. May they be multiplied and used for peace with justice in the ministries of this congregation, this conference, and throughout the world.

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DOXOLOGY FOR PEACE (origin unknown)

Praise God all peoples of the earth,  
Praise God for the great gift of birth,  
Praise God who rules the nation still,  
God bend them to your perfect will.

Praise God the creator of all,  
Peoples and nations great and small,  
Praise God who maketh wars to cease,  
God, lead us in the paths of peace.

BENEDICTION

As we go into the world  
May the Divine Parent lead us to be agents of peace with justice  
May the Holy Spirit fill us with a spirit not of fear, but of adoption  
So that all who we meet will know the love and grace of Jesus Christ.  
Go now in peace.