

PEACE WITH JUSTICE SUNDAY

“May God give strength to God’s people! May God bless the people with peace!” Psalm 29:11, *An Inclusive-Language Lectionary*

Call to Worship

Leader: Grace and peace be to you, my brothers and sisters!

People: Grace and peace be to you also.

Leader: Let us worship the eternal God, the source of our blessings and strength.

People: Let us worship Jesus Christ, the Prince of peace.

Leader: Come; let us be filled with the Spirit of the living God.

People: Breathe on us, breath of God. Alleluia!

Litany

Leader: Almighty God of all,

People: Help us understand who we are.

Leader: We pray for those who are poor in spirit, who mourn for justice, who are pure in heart and who seek your righteousness.

People: God, have mercy on us, as you are merciful.

Leader: We pray for victims of domestic violence, poverty, racism, sexism, ageism and every form of injustice in our society.

People: God, have mercy on us, as we are merciful.

Leader: Gracious God, help us to hear the cries of people who lost their loved ones from violence, war, poverty and injustice.

People: God, have mercy on us, as we pray for your strength.

Leader: Let us examine our ways and return to God!

People: God, help us to be peacemakers for your people.

Leader: With what shall we come before God and bow ourselves before God on high?

People: God has shown us what is good. God requires us is to do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with God.

All: God, help us to follow your footsteps. Amen.

Prayer

Most gracious God, who gives us life, we gather humbly before you for your blessings and love. As we journey together as your people, help us to see your light shining our path and to experience your presence that strengthens us. As Christ has given himself as the living sacrifice for peace, empower us to become peacemakers in this world. Forgive us when our hopes are exclusive instead of inclusive and when justice is for the privileged few instead of available to all. Confront us until the evil in us dies and all that is good in us grows. So shall there be peace and justice from sea to shining sea, and we shall become in truth, as well as in hope, one family in Christ. Through our words, thoughts and deeds, may we continue to build your reign on earth and become the source of your blessings for others. Amen.

Suggested Hymns and Prayers

- “For the Healing of the Nations,” *UMH* 428
- “Let There Be Peace on Earth,” *UMH* 431
- “God of Every Nation,” *UMH* 435
- “We Utter Our Cry,” *UMH* 439
- “What Does the Lord Require,” *UMH* 441
- “Creator of the Earth and Skies,” *UMH* 450
- “For Courage to Do Justice,” *UMH* 456

Suggested Scripture Readings (Revised Common Lectionary)

- Genesis 1:1-2:4a; Psalm 8; 2 Corinthians 13:11-13; Matthew 28:16-20
- Isaiah 6:1-8; Psalm 29; Romans 8:12-17; John 3:1-17
- Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31; Psalm 8; Romans 5:1-5; John 16:12-15

Benediction

May the blessings of God, the Creator, Redeemer and Advocate strengthen you as you continue to live as people of God, challenge you to become peacemakers and grant you peace as the instruments of God’s justice in this world. Amen.

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