



Peace with Justice

OFFERING TALK



Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.
The people of The United Methodist Church®

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WE ARE FAMILY

Though congregations may observe Peace with Justice Sunday at any time, they are encouraged to celebrate with a special offering on the Sunday after Pentecost, May 30, 2021. This script may be used to introduce the offering. Feel free to adapt it to fit the context of your congregation. Consider including the liturgy in a printed bulletin or handout to remind your congregation of this special day in the life of the church. Tie the fullness of this special Sunday with a coordinated sermon starter along with children's resources, and adult discussion questions at ResourceUMC.org/PWJS.

In the Companion Litany to our Social Creed, we declare:
"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."

I was moved to hear the story of Matthew's Voices, a choir hosted by Roberts Park United Methodist Church in the Indiana Annual Conference.

Founded and directed by Jason Fishburn-Grooten, Matthew's Voices engaged with people living on the streets through the restorative power of song. It offered access to, and addressed the need for, the arts in populations in downtown Indianapolis who often go untouched, unloved and underserved.

While like many music ministries, the choir has paused during the pandemic, it was inspiring to learn about this United Methodist outreach that



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invited those who are experiencing homelessness or feeling vulnerable to find their voices and amplify them in community.

Matthew's Voices was one of several ministries in the Indianapolis Conference that received a grant from Peace with Justice funds.

Today we are receiving a special offering for Peace with Justice Sunday. Half of the gifts collected from across the denomination will be distributed in global programs by Church and Society. The other half remains in our annual conference to support local efforts (note for worship leader: *check with your annual conference to find out how funds are distributed in your conference*).

As we consider what it means to care for our siblings, to empower those who are on the margin and to address unjust systems, today we have an opportunity to be part of the United Methodist family by sharing from our own abundance.

When you give generously on Peace with Justice Sunday, your gift becomes a voice for advocacy around the world. Together we strengthen God's family with ministries that challenge structures of inequality and empower people and communities through systemic change.

You can write a check made out to the church and write PWJS in the memo line or give online: **[UMC.org/SSGive](https://www.UMC.org/SSGive)**.

OFFERING PRAYER

We present our offerings
in the name of Abba, Son and Holy Spirit.
Triune God, who mothers us all,
bless and multiply these gifts
as they join with those across the United Methodist family
to bring peace with justice to all of your children.
Amen.



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