

SPECIAL
SUNDAY

PEACE WITH JUSTICE SUNDAY

SERMON STARTER



This sermon starter is part of the Peace with Justice Sunday pastor and leader kit and connects with the theme “Rising Justice: Pursuing the Peaceable Kingdom.” It is based on 2 Samuel 23:3-4 and can be adapted for your context and integrated into your worship service with the other material in the kit.

Imagine children walking along a pathway of peace, discovering transformational books. Picture conversations being sparked, the seeds of compassion and understanding planted in young hearts. And now imagine those children carrying those lessons into their schools and homes. Visualize how the impact ripples outward, touching lives and shaping communities.

Today, on Peace with Justice Sunday, United Methodist churches like ours have an opportunity to be part of the justice movement that is rising in our communities. The Peace with Justice Sunday offering is instrumental in advancing the pursuit of the peaceable kingdom that the prophet Isaiah envisioned.

The opening meditation in this sermon is already happening. Through the generous support of United Methodists, Our Lord’s United Methodist Church in New Berlin, Wisconsin was able to establish an “Intergenerational Peace and Justice Storytelling Path” within their church grounds. This pathway serves not only as

a physical space for contemplation but as a resource for education and action. It’s a testament to the United Methodist commitment to justice, peace, and the transformation of communities.

It’s not just in the US where our offerings are making a difference. Church and Society grants are empowering churches and communities around the world. For example, in the Kivu Annual Conference in the East Congo Episcopal Area, the Englise Local Kafulo launched the “Stop Exploitation of Children, Girls and Women Sexual Abuse” project. This initiative is working to stop all forms of violence and sexual abuse against vulnerable groups. It offers protection and support to victims while also strengthening preventive measures.

In today’s scripture, King David uses his last words to speak of the importance of leadership rooted in justice and righteousness. His reflection on leadership rooted in justice and righteousness is not merely a personal testament but a reminder of God’s character and covenant with humanity. Throughout the scriptures,

God’s covenantal promises emphasize a commitment to justice, mercy, and righteousness.

This covenant is not just a historical agreement but an ongoing relationship between God and God’s people, characterized by faithfulness and mutual responsibility. David’s imagery of the “light of morning” gives us hope and a prophetic vision of a new dawn of justice and peace. As followers of Jesus, we embody this light of morning, shining brightly through the shadows of injustice and oppression. Our actions, filled with the transformative power of God’s love, bring hope and renewal to all those around us.

Our work for peace and justice is far from over. David’s reign was far from perfect. As we witness the violence in today’s world including the wars in Ukraine and Gaza, we know that the journey towards peace with justice is faced with challenges and setbacks. Like David, we are called to anchor our pursuit of justice in the firm foundation of God’s covenant, trusting in divine faithfulness to guide and sustain us.



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