Living Faith, Seeking Justice™
Worship

Le justice roll down like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream! Amos 5:24
Worship

About the Altarscapes...

God is troubled watching the people of Israel and admonishing them for their unfaithfulness and hypocrisy. God’s response to their unfaithfulness is mighty through justice. The justice imagery used in Amos 5:24 is that of water – something that seeps through all the cracks and crevices of the earth and our lives. It’s difficult to hide from water especially when it comes with a powerful force. However, we know water brings both death and life. The irony of this imagery is represented in the altarscapes through the use of colors: yellow (celebration of the saints); green (life, the lushness of community); purple (a quest for understanding, faith and hope) and blue (repentance, redemption, blessing and commitment) with sacred elements of bread and wine and water for baptism reminding us of God’s love and care. A trickling stream begins our journey as we visually witness the transforming message of God. The stream awakens us to God’s call to seek good, not evil. As the conference progresses, so does the water which culminates into a raging waterfall reminding us of the heavy responsibility to "do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God." (Micah 6:8) Rest gently in these altarscapes…..but not for long. God begs us to be outward witnesses for peace!

Worship Leaders

Jorge A. Lockward, conference music leader, serves as the Global Praise Program Coordinator and is co-founder and conductor-in-residence of Cántico Nuevo (NewSong), a worship-and-arts ecumenical project in New York City. Jorge also participated in development of the Spanish Language United Methodist Hymnal and is the editor of Tenemos Esperanza, a trilingual (Spanish, Portuguese, English) songbook and recording of congregational song from Latin America published in 2003 by GBGMusik.

Cassondra Kellam currently serves as the Director of Youth Spiritual Enrichment and the Director of the Youth Choir at Marble Collegiate Church in Manhattan. She is also a recent graduate of Drew University, where she received her Masters in Theological Studies. Cassondra has a rich history of church leadership and has directed numerous choirs throughout Pennsylvania, New York, and New Jersey. She has also shared her musical gifts across France, Austria, Spain, Japan, Monaco, and South Africa. Cassondra is a dynamic speaker, teacher, and musician who is dedicated to living a life that is, as she explains, "unfashionably, and unequivocally Jesus-like".
Thursday, November 1, 2007
Order of Service

“Living”

There are those who have impacted our lives and our ministry, the great saints of justice. How are we connected to this great cloud of witnesses? We are connected each time we act to heal one or many in a broken world. Come, raise your voices, worship and honor the saints of justice.

Gathering Songs of God’s People

A Quiet Listening to the Voices
“We gather, O God, to celebrate those who came before us – those saints who changed lives forever. We honor them and offer gratitude for their lives and for ours.”

A Resounding Call to Living

The American Indian Fancy Dance is a symbol of an active living culture. The women’s fancy shawl dance is represented in dance steps and in the intricate and decorative dress and shawl. The men’s version with its bright colors and flying ribbons maintains a fast pace that demands great athleticism. The style of dance is one of constant whirl of beauty and grace rather than wild movements. Footwork is intricate, and, at the pow wow, when the dancer passes, the woman may signal her honor for a person by stepping high with knees raised to the waist and outstretched arms raising her shawl. The man whirls and stoops low to the ground searching the earth as a form of honoring the Creator. Tonight the Fancy Dancer dances in honor of the saints of justice.

*Litany of Gratitude

Many: We lift our thankful hearts to you, O God, for their legacy and our inheritance.

One: We give you thanks for those who have gone before us and are a part of our journey now.

Many: We lift our thankful hearts to you, O God, for their legacy and our inheritance.

One: We give you thanks for those whose lives have empowered us and whose presence was a beacon of hope to others and us gathered here.

Many: We lift our thankful hearts to you, O God, for their legacy and our inheritance.

One: We give you thanks for those whose laughter kept us from being discouraged or tired or whose wonderful testimony of a life of action uplifted our hearts and caused us to move.
Many: We lift our thankful hearts to you, O God, for their legacy and our inheritance.

One: We give you thanks for those who sacrificed themselves in order to follow your call, our brothers and sisters who gave their lives for the sake of your kingdom to come.

Many: We lift our thankful hearts to you, O God, for their legacy and our inheritance.

One: We give you thanks for those whose lives reflected the vows made before you, whose perseverance and commitment bear much fruit among your peoples.

Many: We lift our thankful hearts to you, O God, for their legacy and our inheritance.

One: We thank you, God, that we hold up these saints of justice always mindful that their actions live on through us even as they are now with you in glory where there is no night and where light is ever present.

Many: We lift our thankful hearts to you, O God, for their legacy and our inheritance.

One: We give you thanks that through their legacy we now may be dedicated to working for a world, where working is rewarded, where fear is dispelled, where justice prevails and every community is united through your Holy Spirit.

One: Sisters and brothers, Let justice roll down like water and righteousness like a flowing stream.

All: Let justice roll!

Adaptation of Litany of Thanksgiving, California-Pacific Annual Conference, Worship: June 21, 2007

*The Body Sings

(Call and Response)

1. Oh healing river
   Send down your water
   Send down your water
   Upon this land
   Oh healing river
   Send down your water
   And wash the blood
   From off this land
   Send down your water
   O healing river

2. This land is thirsting
   This land is parching
   No seed is growing
   In the barren ground
   Oh healing river
   Send down your water
   O healing river
   Send your water down

3. Let the seeds of peace
   Awake and flourish
   Let the deep roots nourish
   Let the tall stalks rise
   O healing river
   Send down your water
   And wash the blood
   From off this land.

Words: Fran Minkoff
Music: Fred Hellerman; arr., Michael Joncas
© Copyright 1964 (renewed) Appleseed Music, Inc.
All rights reserved. Used by permission.

The General Board of Church and Society of the United Methodist Church
The Word Proclaimed

Hebrews 11:1 & 2

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval.

The New Revised Standard Version, copyright 1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

The Word Explained

Rev. Chebon Kernell


The Body in Silent Prayer

“Let me be with you in the silence that is to come, to sing with all the saints an endless hymn of love for you.”

Silence and the Gift by Richard Beale, St. Andrew Press 1994

*The Body Sings

One Bread, One Body

Refrain:
One bread, one body, One Lord of all,
One cup of blessing which we bless.
And we, though many, throughout the earth,
We are one body in this one Lord.

1. Gentile or Jew, Servant or free,
   Woman or man, No more.
   Refrain.

2. Many the gifts, Many the works,
   One in the Lord, Of all.
   Refrain.

3. Grain for the fields, Scattered and grown,
   Gathered to one, For all.
   Refrain.

Words and music: John B. Foley and Gary Alan Smith
© 1978, 1989 John B. Foley and North American Liturgy Services
All Rights Reserved. Reprinted under LicenSingonline No. U12627
Service of the Living Word and Table

Prayer of Thanksgiving

God most beautiful be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to God.
Let us give thanks to God our Creator
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right and good and joyous prayer,
Always and everywhere to give you thanks.
For in the beginning, Creator God,
You made the earth; round, rich, and fertile,
The mother of all life, the seedbed of all growth.
You bent low and gently gathered
Up a handful of clay
And shaped and wonderfully and intricately
Made man and woman.
You breathed wind and spirit into flesh and bone.
And spoke through the ages in the lives and voices of saints and prophets:

Moses and Miriam
Deborah and Isaiah
Jeremiah and Sarah
Mary and Elizabeth
Paul and Stephen
And all the men, women, and children in holy scripture.

Benedict and Francis
Wesley and Otterbein
Susannah Wesley and Susan B. Anthony
Thomas Merton and Martin Luther King, Jr.
Dorothy Day and Howard Thurman
Mother Teresa and Gandhi
Vine Deloria and Harmon Wray
Archbishop Romero and Rosa Parks
Brother Roger and Obispo Maximo Alberto Ramento
We became like you, formed in your image
Carrying the stars in our eyes
The moon in our heart
And the cosmos in every breath.

You touched us with goodness and beauty.
Yet we resisted your touch and tried to shape ourselves.
So we have become chipped by greed,
Cracked by injustice, broken with grief.
But again and again, you send your Spirit,
To renew us and the earth, to gather our brokenness
And despair into new hope, to turn us into an alleluia.

And so, with all the Saints who have gone before,
all the creatures of the earth,
and all the faithful touched by your Spirit,
we praise your name and join the unending hymn of praise.

Sung Response:

Loving God, in the fullness of time, you sent us your best.
You gave us Jesus, who dared to feed the hungry and welcome the outcasts,
who healed the sick and challenged the privileged,
who announced that a new reign of love had begun.
He promised to send the Spirit, told us we would not be alone
and continues to say, “Peace be with you.”

On the night he gathered his friends together,
He took bread, the staff of life, the blessing of the sun,
gave thanks, broke the bread and gave it to them.
“This is my body broken and given for you.”
He took the cup, the fruit of the earth, the blessing of the rain,
he gave a prayer of thanks and gave it to them.
“This wine is life poured out for you and for many,
a sign of forgiveness and new covenant.
As often you eat this bread and drink the cup. Remember me."

So in remembrance, we offer our own lives in union with Christ.

Sung Response:

O Wind and Breath of God, send your dove of peace to our world and to us gathered here. Send your Spirit to renew a broken and hurting earth, to reveal the paths of hope, to set us afire with joy and justice. Strengthen your Church to be witnesses to all the world and may this meal be a sweet taste of that time to come when the Spirit will gather people from all corners of the earth, and we will sit in peace and harmony.

Amen.

Sharing of the Bread and Wine

Come, let us eat together, share the Lord’s Supper with the community gathered around your table.

*The Body Sings

1. One heart, one Spirit, one voice to praise you, We are the body of Christ
2. One goal, one vision: To see you exalted. We are the body of Christ
3. And to this we give our lives To see you glorified.

*Going Forth

Rev. Chebon Kernell

* Stand as you are able

The General Board of Church and Society of the United Methodist Church
Friday, November 2, 2007
Order of Service

“Faith”

Christ’s call for our shared life in community urges us to find the intersections of personal faith with outward witness. Wesley called this connection the intersection of personal holiness with social holiness. In your local setting, where are the intersections for you? Come, let us join together rejoicing in the community of faith as it steps out to act in the world.

Gathering Songs of God’s People

A Quiet Listening to the Voices

“Our faith, by definition finds expression in action. Actions that reveal the presence of Christ where two or three are gathered in Jesus’ name. Being "The Body of Christ" is not a metaphor, but a powerful reality we live every day in communities that love and serve God and neighbor.”

*A Call to Faith

Voice: Sisters, brothers, we have gathered as people of faith, people whose belief in Jesus energizes and informs who we are and what we do. We understand ourselves to be more than just like-minded individuals, more than well-intentioned human beings, more than just nice folk. We know ourselves to be a body, the body of Christ—the amazing, transforming, justice-seeking, unstoppable body of Christ.

Voice: Sisters and brothers, let justice roll down like water and righteousness like a flowing stream.

All: Let justice roll!

*The Body Sings

Somos el cuerpo de Cristo

Refrain:

Words and music: Jaime Cortez
© 1994 Jaime Cortez. Published by OCP Publications.
All rights reserved. Reprinted under License Online No. U12627
When the king heard the words of the book of the law, he tore his clothes. Then the king commanded the priest Hilkiah, Ahikam son of Shaphan, Achbor son of Micaiah, Shaphan the secretary, and the king’s servant Asaiah, saying, ‘Go, inquire of the Lord for me, for the people, and for all Judah, concerning the words of this book that has been found; for great is the wrath of the Lord that is kindled against us, because our ancestors did not obey the words of this book, to do according to all that is written concerning us.’

Then the king directed that all the elders of Judah and Jerusalem should be gathered to him. The king went up to the house of the Lord, and with him went all the people of Judah, all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the priests, the prophets, and all the people, both small and great; he read in their hearing all the words of the book of the covenant that had been found in the house of the Lord. The king stood by the pillar and made a covenant before the Lord, to follow the Lord, keeping his commandments, his decrees, and his statutes, with all his heart and all his soul, to perform the words of this covenant that were written in this book. All the people joined in the covenant.

The New Revised Standard Version, copyright 1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

THE WORD EXPLAINED

“Always More!”

REVEREND DR. PAMELA LIGHTSEY

THE PEOPLE’S RESPONSE

“We Are Called”

Words and music: David Haas
© 1988 GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net E-801025.

The General Board of Church and Society of the United Methodist Church
The Body in Silent Prayer

“Silence is the source of all that exists, the unfathomable stillness where vibration began – the first oscillation, the first word, from which life emerged. Silence is our deepest nature, our home, our common ground, our peace. Silence reveals. Silence heals. Silence is where God dwells. We yearn to be there.”


Starting Right Now

(At your tables you are invited to share in your own native language, prayer requests as well as reflections on the message and how it resonates in your own life. Let us live out our faith as the community of Christ!)

*The Body Sings*  

*What Does the Lord Require of You*

Text based on Micah 6:8. Text and music © 1986, Desert Flower Music. All rights reserved. Used with permission. Reprinted under License online No. U12627

*Going Forth*  

Rev. Dr. Pamela Lightsey

*Stand as you are able*
Seekers of Justice, Come! We worry about injustice and God’s reality in the world. We seek a world that is whole, not broken and we act to right the wrongs. We ask the difficult questions, “Why? Is the Church hearing us? Is the world hearing us call?” But the answers may only come after our time. Let us gather now, for a time to be in the midst of envisioning future possibility of what God is already doing. Let us dream and vision even while we are awake. Come.

Gathering Songs of God’s People

A Quiet Listening to the Voices

There comes a time when you must go off alone, looking within to discover your place in the Sacred Circle of Life. This vision quest has been followed by human beings for thousands of years. A wise elder asked, "Without the energy that lifts mountains and moves rivers, how am I to live?" The task then, for Seekers of Justice, is to re-enter life bringing the unique gifts and insights learned as a holy and living offering to God recognizing the world's brokenness and working to transform it into wholeness and harmony.

A Call to Seeking

Voice: Why are you here?

Voice: What are you looking for?

Voice: What is missing? What do you want?

Voice: Somehow the gravitational pull of God’s dream brings us here, to a place of dreams and deep desires.

Voice: A place of deep dissatisfaction with the way things are. A place of gathering for all who are sick and tired of being sick and tired.

Voice: Welcome, seekers, welcome to worship, welcome to the place where dreams find their way into reality.

Voice: Let justice roll down like water and righteousness like a flowing stream.

All: Let justice roll!

*The Body Sings  
  Canticle of the Turning
Tune: Star of the County Down by Rory Cooney © GIA Publications.
All Rights Reserved. Reprinted under Onelicense.net No. E-801025.

The Word Proclaimed

Amos 5:24

But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an everflowing stream.

The New Revised Standard Version, copyright 1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.
The Word Sung

The Word Explained

“The Irrigation System”

James Winkler

*The Response to the Word

Proposed United Methodist Social Creed

Musical Refrain:

And so shall we, and so shall we. Today is the day God celebrates when justice and compassion prevail like ever.

flowing streams and so shall we, and so shall we.

A Note about the Music:

This liturgy calls for music that “reflects a diversity of musical styles and languages.” Rather than stress diversity by trying to incorporate every culture with a token gesture in a single piece, this piece creates unity through a melody and rhythm that all cultures can embrace. The notes of the melody are all included in the pentatonic scale—the only 5 notes that appear in nearly every folk music around the world. The result is a hymn that is simple, familiar, and comfortable for our diverse world. The harmony is a combination of traditional and modern styles, though open to re-harmonization and new rhythmic feels as it is incorporated into hymnals of other languages and cultures so as to better fit the intended audience.

Music and Lyrics by Carol Simpson ©2007

The General Board of Church and Society of the United Methodist Church
R
God in the Spirit revealed in Jesus Christ
calls us by grace

\textit{to be renewed in the image of our Creator,}
\textit{that we may be one}
\textit{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.
\textit{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.
\textit{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. \textbf{R}

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

\textit{Today is the day}
\textit{God brings good news to the poor,}
\textit{proclaims release to the captives,}
\textit{gives sight to the blind, and}
\textit{sets the oppressed free.} \textbf{R}
\textit{And so shall we}

\textbf{The Body in Silent Prayer}

“Within each of us there is a silence – a silence as vast as the universe. We are afraid of it…and we long for it. When we experience that silence, we remember who we are: creatures of the stars, created from the birth of galaxies, created from the cooling of this
planet, created from dust and gas, created from the elements, created from time and space...created from silence.”


Starting Right Now
(At your tables you are invited to share in your own native language prayer requests as well as reflections on the message and how it resonates in your own life. Let us live out our faith as the community of Christ!)

The Body Sings  Kudhaayaa raeham kar/Lord, have mercy

A Vision Beyond Our Sight

One: This is what God says, the God who builds a road right through the ocean, who carves a path through pounding waves, "Forget about what's happened; be alert, be present. I'm about to do something brand-new. It's bursting out! Join with me! Don't you see it?

Many: How can we join in what we can't see? Open our eyes! We want to see!

One: Well, there it is! I'm making a road through the desert, rivers in the badlands, water in the desert, rivers through the sun-baked earth, drinking water for my people.

Many: Where is it? We can't see it!
One: Open your eyes! The signs are all around you! The signs are within you! Look around! I mean it! Look around! Look and see what I am already doing within your neighbor and your neighborhood, in this place and beyond.

Many: Your dawn is upon us, we dare to live in your light!

Written by Jorge Lockward. Used with permission.

*The Body Sings

_Lift Every Voice and Sing_

Lift ev’ry voice and sing, till earth and heav’n ring.
Ring with the glory of our sacred song, God of our salvation, King of glory.

Harmonies of liberty; Let our rejoicing days when hope had died; Yet with a steady heart, we toil along.

Rise high as the listening skies, Let it re-sound loud as the beat, have not our weary feet Come to the place for which our might led us into the light, Keep us forever in the rolling sea.

Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us; sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us, sing a song full of the strength that the future has reserved for us.

Facing the rising sun of our new day be-tong, Out from the gloom past, til now we stand at thee; Shad-owed be-neath thy hand, may we forever stand.

Lest our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget the path we tread.

Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast, Let us march on till victory is won.

Stand, true to our God, true to our native land.

Words: James Weldon Johnson, 1921
Music: J. Rosamond Johnson, 1921
Used by permission.

*Going Forth

* Stand as you are able

James Winkler

The General Board of Church and Society of the United Methodist Church
Sunday, November 4, 2007
Order of Service

“Justice”

Our time to leave this place is drawing near. The mantle of justice can weigh upon us if we let it. Wait! Look around!.. We are not alone! The God of justice walks with us and others walk with us. We are together united by our baptism and God’s anointing. Come, Christians, lovers and seekers of Justice and unite! Let Justice roll like water in an everflowing stream!

Gathering Songs of God’s People

A Quiet Listening to the Voices

The mighty rushing of the water frightens, yet, consoles me. I know God is powerful, yet, also as close to me as my very breath. I want to do what’s right. I want to do something that will make a difference for all of humanity. Speak to me, O Holy One. Speak to me.

A Call to Justice

**Voice 1:** In this turbulent time, we crave connection; we long for peace; we want the means to walk through the chaos intact. We are seeking things that are only available through an experience of sacred.

**Voice 2:** Yet sometimes in pursuit of these goals we flee from people and withdraw into an environment we think we can control. Or we blot out our longings with mind-numbing experiences or substances.

**Voice 1:** But we cannot find connection, community, and peace by withdrawing from others or going unconscious. The peace we seek is found in experiencing ourselves as part of something bigger and wiser than our little crazed self. The community we belong to is all of life. The turbulence cannot be controlled, but when we stop struggling and accept it as part of life, it feels different.

**Voice 2:** Sacred experiences give us what we need to live in this strange yet wondrous time. We need as many sacred moments as we can find. We invite these moments when we open to life and to each other. In those grace-filled moments of greeting, we know we’re part of all this, and that it’s all right. Praise be to God.

*The Body Sings

Pelas dores/We Pray For Peace

Adaptation of excerpt from “Turning to One Another” by Margaret J. Wheatley

The General Board of Church and Society of the United Methodist Church
Pe las do res des te mun do, ó Se ninor,
Teus ou vi dos se in cli nem ao cla mor.
For the trou bles and the suf ferings of the world,
Lend an ear to the ris ing cry for help.

Im plo ra mos ple da de.
Des tu gen te o pri mi da.
God, we call up on your mer cy:
frum up pressed and hope less peo ple.
Come!

um só tem po ge me a cri a ção.
pres sa te com tua sal va ção.
whole cre a tion’s la bor ing in pain!
Has ten your sal va tion, heal ing love!

A tu a paz, ben di ta e ir ma na da co a jus
O teu po der, sus ten te o tes te mu nho do teu
We pray for peace, the bled sed peace that com es from mak ing
We pray for power, the power that will sus tain your peo ple’s

ti ça, a bra ce o mun do in te rio.
po vo, Teu Rei no ve nh a s
just ice, to cov er and em brace us.
wit ness: un til your King dom

Tem com pa xão!
Have mer cy, Lord!

Words and music: Rodolfo Gaede Neto
English trans., Simei Monteiro and Jorge Lockward
GBGMusik, 475 Riverside Dr., New York, NY 10115. All rights reserved. Used by permission.


The General Board of Church and Society of the United Methodist Church
Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, ‘See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away.’

And the one who was seated on the throne said, ‘See, I am making all things new.’ Also he said, ‘Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.’ Then he said to me, ‘It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life.

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.

‘It is I, Jesus, who sent my angel to you with this testimony for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star.’ The Spirit and the bride say, ‘Come.’ And let everyone who hears say, ‘Come.’ And let everyone who is thirsty come. Let anyone who wishes take the water of life as a gift.

The one who testifies to these things says, ‘Surely I am coming soon.’ Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

The New Revised Standard Version, copyright 1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

The Body Sings

*Pelas dores/We Pray For Peace*

We pray for peace, the blessed peace that comes from making justice, to cover and embrace us.

Teu Reino veja, um reino de justiça.

Tem compassão!

Have mercy, come.

Words and music: Rodolfo Gaede Neto
English trans., Simei Monteiro and Jorge Lockward

The General Board of Church and Society of the United Methodist Church
The Word Explained

*The Body Sings

For the Healing of the Nations

Words: Fred Kaan
Music: John Hughes
Words © 1968 Hope Publishing Co. All rights reserved.
Reprinted under OneLicense.net E-801025.

The Body in Silent Prayer

“Abba, beloved name, I love your house and your rule. Nourish our bodies and our spirits with holy food. Forgive us and give us strength to forgive others, and teach us to see that we can choose the good.”

Silence and the Gift by Richard Beale, St. Andrew Press, 1994

Offering of Action

Please take a card and envelope from your table, pray over it then write down your follow up offering of action for justice in the world. These cards will be mailed back to you in six months as a reminder of your commitment.

Offertory

Cassondra Kellam
The Body Sings

(\textit{Call and Response})

1. Oh healing river 
   Send down your water 
   Send down your water 
   Upon this land 
   Oh healing river 
   Send down your water 
   And wash the blood 
   From off this land 
   Send down your water 
   O healing river 

2. This land is thirsting 
   This land is parching 
   In the barren ground 
   Oh healing river 
   Send down your water 
   O healing river 
   Send your water down 

3. Let the seeds of peace 
   Awake and flourish 
   Let the deep roots 
   nourish 
   Let the tall stalks rise 
   O healing river 
   Send down your water 
   And wash the blood 
   From off this land.

\textit{Healing River}

Words: Fran Minkoff
Music: Fred Hellerman; arr., Michael Joncas
© Copyright 1964 (renewed) Appleseed Music, Inc. All rights reserved.
Used by permission.

The Body Reaffirms and Commissions

One: Hope springing up like a fountain
\textbf{Many: Joy bursting forth like a hidden waterfall after the rains.}
One: Peace flowing like a river.
\textbf{Many: Kindness showering us like a gentle rain.}
One: Caring that wells like the water of our tears.
\textbf{Many: Love welling up like an inner spring.}
One: Music rising like the waves on the shore.
\textbf{Many: Justice swelling like a mighty stream.}

\textbf{Let us Pray:}

\textit{Fountain of Life, Giver of Gifts, we come to you reminded of our baptism, humbled by the mantle of justice laid upon us. For you are the Living Water that flows to Eternal Life.}

\textbf{All: We join together renouncing the spiritual forces of evil that threaten to overtake a broken world.}

One: And so it is.

\textbf{All: We rejoice in the freedom and power God gives us to resist evil, injustice and oppression in every corner of the earth.}

One: And so it is.
All: We proclaim Jesus Christ, our Savior, the living example of your transformative presence in the world. We put our trust in the generous abundance of the grace you pour out on us. We promise to uphold the mantle of justice you lay upon us. And so it is.

Leader: Join with me now and pour from the pitcher at your table into the bowl. The water represents God’s grace poured out fully, lavishly, and abundantly for all. It anoints us and lays upon us a call for action that will be represented by our reaffirmation and bringing forth of our offering of letters.

Each person will dip a hand into water and pick up rock into the water and lay it in the hand of another saying:

“Remember your baptism and know that you are loved and called to be the river of justice rolling down. Don’t let it dry up, for our lives are drops of water contributing to an overflowing stream.”

(Following the reaffirmation, one person from each table brings forth the note card offerings from the people at your table.)

Prayer of Dedication (in unison)

Holy One, the common elements have been celebrated here, bread, wine and water—they bear your mark and are given to us that we might feel a deep blessing and be made truly whole and commissioned to go out into the world.

Birth waters, cleansing baths, refreshing rains, Jordan’s river, streams all link us to our baptism. For your gift of water is life and renewal, affirming and confirming. Through this reaffirmation and commissioning to action, we renew ourselves and acknowledge what God is doing for us and affirm our commitment to the Living faith of Christ.

*The Body Sings

Healing River

*Sending Forth

Rev. Janet Wolf

*The Body in Closing Prayer (in unison)

God of peace, in Jesus you wept for the city,
You loved the city, place of human need,
violence, wealth, and poverty,
but also a place of hope and human gathering.

We pray for cities and villages around the globe
that the needs of all for food and shelter and work and peace for justice and dignity, might be met.

We pray that the diverse people here may join their efforts to seek the good of all.

Minister to this world through the hands of your people, as they feed the hungry, heal the sick, and comfort the sorrowing.

We pray for people living in places without peace, who seek peace where there is no peace and pray to survive.

Keep alive in us that hope of the new Jerusalem, of the city that finds its light from your presence and its joy in doing your will, where tears are dried, and violence is destroyed.

Through Jesus Christ, let it be. Amen.

Adapted from “Touch Holiness, Ed. By Ruth C. Duck and Maren C. Tirabassi, 1990

* Stand as you are able