

Remember, Repent, Renew – The Way of Just Peace

A Just Peace Service: Sunday Sept. 17, 2017

Genesis 50:15-21 | Matthew 18:21-35 | Romans 14:1-12

Call To Worship¹

Leader: Prepare the way of the Lord!

All: God of Justice and Peace we need you.

Leader: We were dead in our trespasses and sins in which we once lived.

All: God of Justice we remember.

Leader: But while we were sinners Christ died for us. God who is rich in mercy, out of love, made us alive together with Christ.

All: God of Peace we repent.

Leader: It is God who breaks down the dividing wall of hostility. God who comes proclaiming peace to those who are far off and those who are near.

All: God of all, help us renew and be renewed in your love.

Invocation Prayer²

Come, true light. Come, treasure without name. Come, reality beyond all words.

Remember us in your light for the darkness of our world tries to define us. Remember us, who are impoverished by the cost of the division and violence we have set before one another. Remember us, as we remember the reality that all people are made in your image. Come, remember us and your world. Amen.

Prayer of Confession³

One: Have mercy on us according to your steadfast love and cleanse us from our sins which are yet before you.

All: We confess that we have acted and spoken in ways that perpetuate violence, hatred, and discord in your good world.

One: Teach our hearts wisdom. Create in us a clean heart O' God.

¹ A Just Peace reflection on Ephesians 2 (NRSV)

² Invocations to come taken from St. Symeon's prayer of invocation to the Holy Spirit.

³ A meditation on Psalm 51

All: We confess that we have harbored apathy and indifference, contributing to the status quo of injustice through our silence.

One: Restore us to the joy of your salvation. Forgive us for not teaching others the way of peace that the world may experience your deliverance.

All: The trees of the forest shall sing for joy before the Lord, for God comes to bring peace on earth. Give thanks to the Lord who is good, God's love endures forever.

Assurance of Pardon

Rest in the assurance of 2 Corinthians 5:17 that if anyone is in Christ they are a new creation. The old has gone and the new has come. Indeed, by the grace of God we have been forgiven. Thanks be to God.

Offering Invitation

As we remember our history, repent of our sins, and pray for the renewal of our relationships with each other and with God's creation, let us make an offering to God who exemplified for us the way of Just Peace.

Dedication

We thank you God from whom are all blessings. We thank you for bringing us together in a community of hope that can dream of a world filled with justice, mercy, and peace. Bless these gifts given in hope and love that they may become a part of your peacemaking works in this world. Amen.

Benediction

And now in the grace of God, the love of Christ, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit go out into the world and practice remembering, repenting, and renewing that justice might roll down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

Music:

O For a World 575 in the New Century Hymnal

Great God of Earth and Heaven 579 in the New Century Hymnal