Wisdom Cries Out!
A Liturgy for Just Peace Sunday

Based on Proverbs 1:20-21

Wisdom cries out in the street;
in the squares she raises her voice.
At the busiest corner she cries out;
at the entrance of the city gates she speaks:

Call to Worship

One: Wisdom cries out in the street.
All: What does Wisdom say?
One: She calls for us to listen and to love one another.
All: We come today to listen and to love.
One: Wisdom is here with us.
All: We are ready to worship God.

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, your Wisdom calls to us but we do not hear. We confess that we ignore your calls and your commandments to welcome the stranger. We exclude, ignore and demean each other by drawing lines and building borders. Forgive our selfishness and our lack of imagination. Holy Wisdom, stir our hearts and inspire us to build your peace in our communities. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Wisdom cries out in the street and she never stops. As long as there is injustice, Wisdom will work, call and bring justice to her people. In Wisdom’s steadfast love, we are held and forgiven. Amen.

Prayer of Preparation

God of justice and peace we don’t always understand how your justice and your peace fit together. We don’t always understand how our faith and actions can transform our world. As we read your ancient words again today, we ask your Wisdom to speak again. Tell us of your great love for our immigrant and refugee neighbors. Show us your way of Just Peace. Amen.

Offertory Prayer

Gracious God and source of all good gifts, thank you for the resources in our lives, in our community and in our nation. Thank you for all that we share
today to make our lives, our community and our nation more welcoming.  
Bless us in our continued ministries that seek your peace and justice.  Amen.

Prayers of the People

One: Holy One, you have often called out to us, showing us your way of Just Peace. Thank you for the prophets, teachers and leaders who have and who continue to lead our way. Thank you for this church community and for the United Church of Christ as we continue to seek you and to struggle for peace and justice. You have called to us and now, trusting in your love for us, we call back to you now with our prayers.

All: Holy Wisdom, hear our prayers.

One: For those hidden places in need of holistic and radical justice,

All: Holy Wisdom, hear our prayers.

One: For your people who are living as refugees, far from their homelands and facing many insecurities.

All: Holy Wisdom, hear our prayers.

One: For the immigrants in our nation who wonder if they are really welcome, who fear on daily basis,

All: Holy Wisdom, hear our prayers.

One: For children who are in the immigration detention system and for families who have been separated as a result of this system,

All: Holy Wisdom, hear our prayers.

One: For those in our churches and in our communities in need of help,

All: Holy Wisdom, hear our prayers.

One: And for all the prayers that burden our hearts and yours,

All: Holy Wisdom, hear our prayers. Amen.

Benediction

Now as you go forth into the world, listen for the call of the Spirit, of Wisdom Crying out in the street, in the public square, at our city gates. Be courageous in the hope that peace, Just Peace, is possible. And may the grace of God, the love of Christ, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit go with you today and always. Amen!

Music Suggestions:

New Century Hymnal #533 “Children of God”
New Century Hymnal #590 “Spirit of Jesus, If I love my Neighbor”
New Century Hymnal #593 “Lift Every Voice and Sing”
New Century Hymnal #740 “O Wisdom, Breathed from God”
New Century Hymnal #571 “O God of Love, O God of Peace”