Day 3 - "Reconciliation and ... JUSTICE"

Resources for the service:

- same as for Day 2

In preparation:

- Some of the broken pieces of the flower pot – pieces that have edges which match one another - are placed together on top of all the other broken pieces in the transparent bowl.

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Musical preparation

Silence

(stand)

Greeting

Leader: Blessed is our God always, now and ever and to the ages of ages.

All: Amen.

Leader: O Lord, open my lips,

All: And my mouth will declare your praise.

Leader: Create in me a clean heart, O God,

All: And put a new and right spirit within me.

Leader: Do not cast me away from your presence,

All: And do not take your holy spirit from me.

Leader: Restore to me the joy of your salvation,

All: And sustain in me a willing spirit.

Song: Sonne der Gerechtigkeit (verse 1 and 4 in German, verses 2-3 in English)



- 2. Weck die tote Christenheit aus dem Schlaf der Sicherheit; mache deinen Ruhm bekannt überall im ganzen Land, Erbarm dich, Herr.
- 3. Schaue die Zertrennung an, der kein Mensch sonst wehren kann; sammle, grosser Menschenhirt, alles, was sich hat verirrt. Erbarm dich, Herr.
- 4. Tu der Völker Türen auf, deines Himmelreiches Lauf hemme keine List noch Macht. Schaffe Licht in dunkler Nacht. Erbarm dich, Herr.
- 2. Bring your dormant church to life, help us, Lord, in all our strife. Let this land and every place be a witness of your grace. Have mercy, Lord.
- 3. See, your shattered church in need finds no help but at your feet. Gather, Shepherd, humankind, all who're lost and left behind. Have mercy, Lord.
- 4. Open wide new doors to preach, till we all the nations reach.
 Keep us steadfast in your might; be our light in darkest night.
 Have mercy, Lord.

- 2. Réveille-nous, tes croyants, assoupis, indifférents, fais entendre encore ta voix, et convertis-nous à Toi. Dieu aie pitié.
- 3. Qui peut rendre l'unité à ton peuple divisé? Berger de l'humanité, réunis les égarés. Dieu aie pitié.
- 4. Donne à tous tes messagers la force et la charité. Dans les larmes nous semons; viens, fais croître la moisson. Dieu aie pitié.

English, Erich Griebling, 1969. French. © Georges Pucher, av. Rond-Point 2, 1225 Chêne-Bourg, Geneva, Switzerland.

(sit)

Prayer of Confession

(based on Psalm 82 and Amos 5)

- Voice 1: God said: "How long will you defend the unjust and show partiality to the wicked?"
- Voice 2: God said: "Give justice to the weak and the orphan, maintain the right of the lowly and the destitute."
- Voice 1: God said: "Rescue the week and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked."
- Voice 2: God said: "Hate evil and love good, and establish justice in the gate."

(Here, voice 2 takes up some matching pieces of the broken flower pot and begins to rebuild the base of the pot on the altar.)

Voice 1: Most holy and merciful God,

we acknowledge and confess our slowness to do good,

our blindness to injustice

and our complicity in deferring the dreams and hopes of the oppressed.

We have refused to heed your call to do justice, to love mercy and to walk humbly with you.

Help us to name our sin, to claim responsibility for our actions, and to change our behaviour. In accordance with the commands of Jesus Christ, shake us from our sleep with your imperative to do justice;

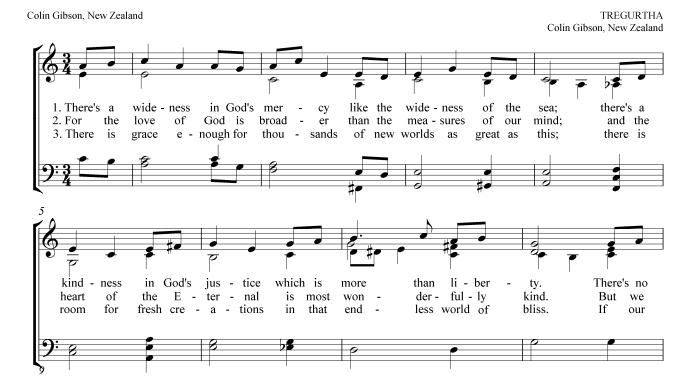
move us to action with the compassion of your grace;

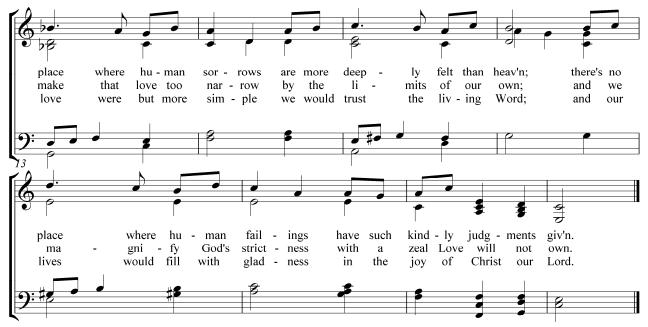
and give us courage to pay the price, however painful or costly, that the justice you will, may be done, on earth as in heaven. Amen.

(www.pcusa.org/peacemaking/worship/mlk.htm; adapted)

(stand)

Song: There's a wideness in God's mercy





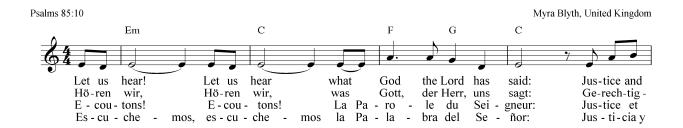
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Old Testament Reading - Isaiah 11: 1-5

A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

Song: Let us hear! (in English)





Melody and English © Myra Blyth, Oxford, England, UK. Français: Anne-Lise Nerfin

New Testament Reading – Matthew 6: 33

But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

Song: Let us hear! (in German, French and Spanish)

(sit)

Meditation

Song: Let us hear! (in French and Spanish)

Litany of Justice

L: The old order is passing away; your new order, God, has already begun and we are numbered among its signs.

Through your spirit in our hearts you have set us free and taught us to call you Father.

All: You have called us out of darkness into your marvelous light.

L: You have opened our eyes, given us hope that we shall live in the glorious liberty of the children of God – but not alone: not while others remain poor, broken-hearted, imprisoned, blind and bruised, yet

All: You have called us out of darkness into your marvelous light.

L: God, so we pray for our brothers and sisters, your family, oppressed by ignorance and poverty, caught in a web of injustice and apathy, cut off from one another by language, culture, colour, class and greed.

All: You have called us out of darkness into your marvelous light.

L: We pray that the powerless be led to self-discovery, the despised find new dignity, the dispossessed be enabled to claim their place in the community of free people.

All: You have called us out of darkness into your marvelous light.

L: Give us a vision of the total liberation of humanity.
Grant us the wisdom to hear the voice of the foolish of the world, the strength to listen to the weak, that through those who are nothing we may understand the word of Christ.

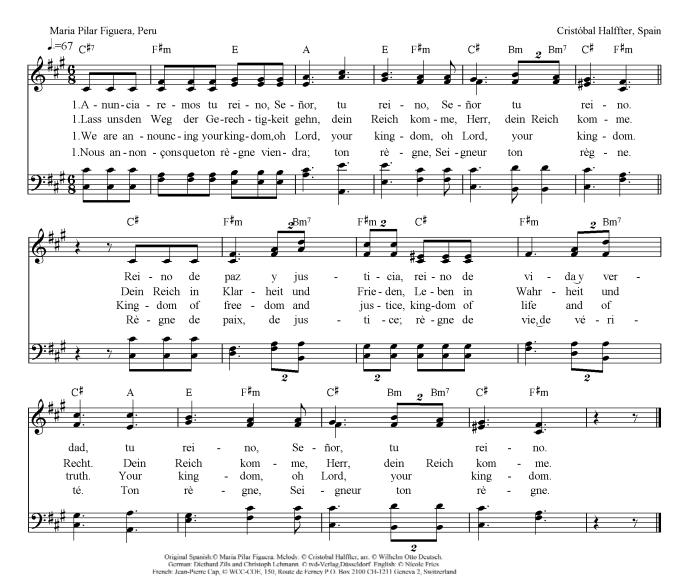
All: You are calling us out of darkness into your marvelous light.

- L: Call us, God, that we may follow you, not only as one who goes ahead but as one who journeys with us and may we be content to learn the meaning of your way as we walk in it.
- All: Call us out of darkness into your marvelous light. Amen.

(© Corrymeela Community, Belfast; adapted)

(stand)

Song: Anunciaremos tu reino, Señor (in all 4 languages)



The Lord's Prayer (each in his or her own language)

Blessing

All: May the blessing of the God of peace and justice be with us;
May the blessing of the Son who weeps the tears of the world's suffering be with us;
And may the blessing of the Spirit who inspires us to reconciliation and hope be with us;
from now into eternity. Amen

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