

Worship in the Spirit of Justice
June 12, 2005/ Lincoln Memorial/ 1:00 p.m.

*(Note: Please print out this bulletin, along with a few extras to share, to bring to our worship service.
Responses in bold are to be read enthusiastically by the worshippers.)*

Prelude/ Singing:

How Great You Are! (Stuart K. Hine, rev.)

O Lord, my God, when I in awesome wonder consider all the worlds your hands have made. I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder, your power throughout the universe displayed.

Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to you: How great you are! How great you are!

When through the woods and forest glades I wander and hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees. When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur and hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze.

And when I think, that God, the Son not sparing, sent him to die, I scarce can take it in. That on the cross my burden gladly bearing, he bled and died to take away my sin.

And when I see God's people showing mercy, when gentle hearts are open to the poor, And when the good with courage stop injustice, and when peacemakers bring an end to war:

Come O Fount (Robert Robinson, rev.)

Come, O Fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing your grace; streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise. Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above. Praise the mount, I'm fixed upon it, mount of God's redeeming love.

Here we sing to God in heaven, you have brought us to this place. And we know that by your mercy, we will all complete the race. Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering far away from God. He to rescue us from danger, bought us with his precious blood.

Oh to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be. Let your goodness like a fetter bind my wandering heart to thee. Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it. Prone to leave the God I love. Here's my heart, O take and seal it, with your Spirit from above.

Call to Worship:

The Lord be with you! **And also with you!** Lift up your hearts! **We lift up our hearts to the Lord!** It is a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere, to give thanks and praise to you, Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

Almighty and ever-living God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid. Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Let us now give a sign of our unity and love by exchanging words of peace with one another....

SONG:

Here I Am (Daniel Schutte)

I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry. All who dwell in deepest sin, My hand will save. I who made the stars of night, I will make the darkness bright. Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?

Here I am Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night. I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain. I have wept for love of them; They turn away. I will change their hearts of stone, Give them hearts for love alone. I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?

I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame. I will set a feast for them, My hand will save. Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied. I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?

Telling the Truth: Each week, we would like to tell the truth about what is happening in Africa, and specifically, in Darfur. Today, we will hear first from ... *Tom Austin:* Background on the Darfur Crisis. *Rev. Cathy Norman:* Her story from Sudan. *Marie Clark* of Africa Action.

Readings (Please read sections in bold.)

In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised up above the hills. People shall stream to it, and many nations shall come and say: **Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob, that He may teach us His ways and that we may walk in His paths.**

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

He shall judge between many peoples, and shall arbitrate between strong nations far away; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more;

But they shall all sit under their own vines and under their own fig trees, and no one shall make them afraid.

For the mouth of the Lord of hosts has spoken. (Micah 4:1-4)

Doxology:

Praise God from whom all blessings flow! Praise God all creatures here below! Praise God above you heavenly host! Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!

'But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you lock people out of the kingdom of heaven. For you do not go in yourselves, and when others are going in, you stop them.

Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you cross sea and land to make a single convert, and you make the new convert twice as much a child of hell as yourselves....

'Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint, dill, and cumin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith. It is these you ought to have practiced without neglecting the others.

Doxology

Praise God who loves the powerless, Who stands against those who oppress, Praise God who is holy and just, the Faithful One in whom we trust.

Confession: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor. Please respond to "We seek your mercy" with, *LORD, HAVE MERCY.*

Holy and loving God, we confess our indifference to the suffering of our neighbors around the world, and especially in Darfur, Sudan. We live in comfort and security; they live in constant danger. We live in affluence; they live in desperate need. We live in freedom and under the protection of law; they live in displacement and vulnerability to those who hate them. For our indifference, we seek your mercy: **LORD, HAVE MERCY.**

O God to whom nothing is impossible, we confess our lack of faith. Too often we assume that injustice is more powerful than faith, that evil is more powerful than hope, that hatred is more powerful than love. But your gospel teaches us that with you, all things are possible. Your resurrection demonstrates that your good will triumph over all evil. For our lack of faith, we seek your mercy: **LORD, HAVE MERCY.**

And God, we confess the inexcusable paralysis and dividedness of our churches, and of our nation. We let ourselves be divided by secondary matters, while others die because we are not unified on their behalf. We squabble and quarrel about polarizing matters, paralyzing ourselves by argument when we should be united in compassion. Too often we care more about the triumph of our parties and positions than we care about the protection and survival of the poor, the weak, and the oppressed. For our dividedness and misguided priorities, we seek your mercy: **LORD, HAVE MERCY.**

Kyrie Eleison, kyrie eleison, kyrie eleison, kyrie eleison. (Lord, have mercy.)

Sermon: Brian McLaren, pastor, Cedar Ridge Community Church (crrc.org)

Offering: All proceeds will go to humanitarian efforts in Darfur.

May Your Kingdom Come

Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah/ May your kingdom come.

May your kingdom come./ May it liberate/ Every prisoner/ Of greed and hate./

May it fill our hearts/ With love for you./ For our neighbors and/ For our enemies too.

May your kingdom come/May it end all war/ And the pain and grief/Of the oppressed and poor./ May all violence be/Finally put away;/ May the streets be safe/So the children may play.

May your kingdom come/So the rivers flow/ Clean and clear/As the breezes blow./ May we humans save/Rather than destroy/ So all creatures thrive/Free in health and joy.

May your kingdom come/May all knees bow/ To the king who was/will be and is now./ May your justice roll/As the rivers run./ May death give way/To resurrection!

Closing Prayer:

O God, you made us in your own image and redeemed us through Jesus your Son: Look with compassion on the whole human family; take away the arrogance and hatred which infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; unite us in bonds of love; and work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish your purposes on earth; that, in good time, all nations and races may serve you in harmony around your heavenly throne. And grant, O God, that your holy and life-giving Spirit may so move every human heart that barriers which divide us may crumble, suspicions disappear, and hatreds cease, that our divisions being healed, we may live in justice and peace, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (BCP)

News/Benediction

Closing Song: With Kindness

Christ has no body here but ours,/ No hands, no feet, here on earth but ours./ Ours are the eyes through which He looks/ On this world/ With kindness.

Ours are the hands through which he works./ Ours are the feet on which he moves
Ours are the voices through which he speaks/ To this world/ With kindness.

Through our touch, our smile, our listening ear,/ Embodied in us, Jesus is living here.
Let us go now,/ Filled with the Spirit./ Into this world/ With kindness.

Please spread the word on Worship in the Spirit of Justice.

Check out worship4justice.org for more information – and directions to next week's site:

The Capitol Reflecting Pool (3rd St. NW and Capitol Mall).

We'll see you there next week!