

Worship in the Spirit of Justice **June 19, 2005/ Capitol Reflecting Pool**

Prelude/ Singing:

Great is Your Faithfulness (Thomas Chisolm, rev.)

Great is your faithfulness,/ God, like a father's,
your love is constant and shines like the sun.
You never change./ Your love, like a mother's, / in
mercy and faithfulness touches each one.

*Great is your faithfulness./ Great is your
faithfulness./ Morning by morning new
mercies I see./ All I have needed your
hand has provided./ Great is your
faithfulness, Lord, unto me.*

Summer and winter, springtime and harvest,/ sun,
moon, and stars in their courses above/ Join with
all nature in manifold witness/ to your great
faithfulness, mercy and love.

Refrain

Pardon for sin and a peace that's enduring,/ Your
own dear presence to cheer and to guide,/ The
poor and oppressed still call out for your justice./
May your great faithfulness rise like a tide.

Refrain

Welcome/Call to Worship: Adam Taylor

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

SONG: 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!

Telling the Truth/Prayer:

A representative from the Darfur Rehabilitation
Project will offer some remarks.

Prayer for Congressional leaders

Readings (Please read sections in bold.)

READING 1. Wash yourselves; make yourselves
clean; remove the evil of your doings from before
my eyes; cease to do evil, learn to do good;
**seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the
orphan, plead for the widow.**

Come now, let us argue it out, says the LORD:
**though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be
like snow; though they are red like
crimson, they shall become like wool.** (Isaiah
1:16-18)

**Therefore justice is far from us, and
righteousness does not reach us; we wait for
light, and lo! there is darkness; and for
brightness, but we walk in gloom.**

We grope like the blind along a wall, groping like
those who have no eyes; we stumble at noon as in
the twilight, among the vigorous as though we
were dead. We all growl like bears; like doves we

moan mournfully.

**We wait for justice, but there is none; for
salvation, but it is far from us.**

For our transgressions before you are many, and
our sins testify against us. Our transgressions
indeed are with us, and we know our iniquities:
transgressing, and denying the LORD, and turning
away from following our God, talking oppression
and revolt, conceiving lying words and uttering
them from the heart.

**Justice is turned back, and righteousness
stands at a distance, for truth stumbles in the
public square, and uprightness cannot enter.
Truth is lacking, and whoever turns from evil
is despoiled.**

The LORD saw it, and it displeased him that there
was no justice. He saw that there was no one, and
was appalled that there was no one to intervene;
**so his own arm brought him victory, and his
righteousness upheld him.** (Isaiah 59:9-16
selected)

READING 2. When Jesus saw the crowds, he
went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his
disciples came to him. Then he began to speak,
and taught them, saying: **‘Blessed are the poor
in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
‘Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be
comforted. ‘Blessed are the meek, for they will
inherit the earth. ‘Blessed are those who hunger
and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.
‘Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive
mercy. ‘Blessed are the pure in heart, for they
will see God. ‘Blessed are the peacemakers, for
they will be called children of God. ‘Blessed are
those who are persecuted for righteousness’
sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

‘Blessed are you when people revile you and
persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against
you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad,
for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same
way they persecuted the prophets who were before
you. **‘You are the salt of the earth;** but if salt has

lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot. **You are the light of the world.** A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. **In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.**

Jewish prayer written by Naomi Levy) "A Prayer for Overcoming Indifference."

I watch the news, God. I observe it all from a comfortable distance. I see people suffering, and I don't lift a finger to help them. I condemn injustice but I do nothing to fight against it. I am pained by the faces of starving children, but I am not moved enough to try to save them. I step over homeless people in the street, I walk past outstretched hands, I avert my eyes, I close my heart.

Forgive me, God, for remaining aloof while others are in need of my assistance.

Wake me up, God; ignite my passion, fill me with outrage. Remind me that I am responsible for Your world. Don't allow me to stand idly by. Inspire me to act. Teach me to believe that I can repair some corner of this world.

When I despair, fill me with hope. When I doubt my strength, fill me with faith. When I am weary, renew my spirit. When I lose direction, show me the way back to meaning, back to compassion, back to You.

And we all say
Amen

the blessed name of holiness be hailed, though it be higher by far than all the blessings, songs, praises, and consolations that we utter in this world. And say: **Amen.**

May Heaven grant a universal peace, and life for us, and for all Israel. And say: **Amen.**

May the one who creates harmony above, make peace for us and for all Israel, and for all who dwell on earth. And say: **Amen.**

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.

Offering of letters led by Jack Pannell and Matt Ching

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: **Freedom Plaza** (14th St. and*

Pennsylvania Ave, NW).

We'll see you there next week!

Sermon: Rabbi David Saperstein

Offering: All proceeds will go to humanitarian efforts in Darfur through World Vision and Jewish American World Service.

Song: That Every Fist (be still my soul)
That every fist would finally stretch open./ That folded arms would reach out in embrace./ That furrowed brows relax and rise in laughter / With childlike joy brightening every face.

This is our prayer, O Father, Son, and Spirit:

That your good will be done upon the earth.

That every heart would finally bud and blossom/
That every soul would soar up high above .../
That every mind would seek to know our Maker/
That all our strength be energized by love.

That we of faith would cease from bitter quarrels/
That we would seek to live the holy truth/ That God is love, true love that serves and suffers./ So we would run as with the strength of youth.

Closing Prayer:

Let God's name be made great and holy in the world that was created as God willed. May God complete the holy realm in your own lifetime, in your days, and in the days of all the house of Israel, quickly and soon. And say: **Amen.**

May God's great name be blessed, forever and as long as worlds endure.

May it be blessed, and praised, and glorified, and held in honor, viewed with awe, embellished, and revered; and may