

## ***Worship in the Spirit of Justice***

June 26, 2005/ Freedom Plaza

### **Prelude/Singing:**

**Song: Make Me An Instrument**

*Lord, make me an instrument of your peace!*  
(2 X)

Where there is hatred, let me sow

love/Where there is injury, let me sow pardon/

Where there is doubt, let me sow faith, O Lord!

Where there's despair, let me sow faith/

Where there is darkness, let me sow light/

Where there is sadness, let me sow joy, O Lord!

O Divine Master, grant that I may/ Seek

less to be consoled, more to console/ Less to be

understood, more to understand/ Less to be

loved, and more to love, O Lord!

For it is in giving, that we receive/ It is in  
pardoning, that we are pardoned/ It is in dying,  
we're born to life eternal.

### **Welcome/Call to Worship: Jack Boeve**

(Please read sections in bold.)

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: We Are People of God's Peace** (tune  
of Good King Wenceslas)

We are people of God's peace, as a new  
creation. Love unites and strengthens us at this

celebration. Sons and daughters of the Lord,  
serving one another. A new covenant of peace  
binds us all together.

We are children of God's peace in this new  
creation. Spreading joy and happiness, through  
God's great salvation. Hope we bring in spirit  
meek, in our daily living. Peace with everyone  
we seek, good for evil giving.

We are servants of God's peace, of the new  
creation. Choosing peace we faithfully serve  
with heart's devotion. Jesus Christ, the Prince  
of Peace, confidence will give us. Christ the  
Lord is our defense; Christ will never leave us.

### **Telling the Truth/Prayer:**

A guest from Sudan

Reagan Demas, International Justice Mission

### **Readings** (Please read sections in bold.)

READING 1. For the LORD your God is God  
of gods and Lord of lords, the great God,  
mighty and awesome, who is not partial and  
takes no bribe,

**who executes justice for the orphan and the  
widow, and who loves the strangers,  
providing them food and clothing. You shall  
also love the stranger, for you were strangers  
in the land of Egypt.**

You shall fear the LORD your God; him alone  
you shall worship; to him you shall hold fast,  
and by his name you shall swear.

**He is your praise; he is your God, who has  
done for you these great and awesome things  
that your own eyes have seen.** (Deuteronomy  
10:17-22)

Give ear, O heavens, and I will speak; let the  
earth hear the words of my mouth. May my  
teaching drop like the rain, my speech condense  
like the dew; like gentle rain on grass, like  
showers on new growth.

**For I will proclaim the name of the LORD;**

**ascribe greatness to our God! The Rock, his  
work is perfect, and all his ways are just. A  
faithful God, without deceit, just and upright  
is he.** (Deut 32:1-4)

READING 2. Rejoice in hope, be patient in  
suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the  
needs of the saints. Extend hospitality to  
strangers.

**Bless those who persecute you; bless and do  
not curse them. Rejoice with those who  
rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in  
harmony with one another; do not be  
haughty, but associate with the lowly.**

Do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not  
repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for  
what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible,  
so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with  
all.

**Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave  
room for the wrath of God, for it is written,  
“Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says, the  
Lord.”**

No, if your enemies are hungry, feed them. If  
they are thirsty, give them something to drink.  
For by doing this you will heap burning coals  
upon their heads.

**Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome  
evil with good.** (Romans 12:12-21)

### **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. Amen.

**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 faith communities, 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. AMEN.**

**Song: Amazing Grace (John Newton)**

Amazing Grace! how sweet the sound that saved someone like me! I was once lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see.

‘Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved; how precious did that grace appear, the hour I first believed!

The Lord has promised good to me, his word my hope secures; he will my shield and portion be as long as life endures.

Through many dangers, toils and snares, I have already come; ‘tis grace that brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.

When we’ve been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun, we’ve no less days to sing God’s praise than when we’d first begun.

**Sermon:** Rev. Wallace Charles Smith

**Offering:** All proceeds will go to humanitarian efforts in Darfur through World Vision and World Relief. Please make checks payable to *Worship in the Spirit of Justice.*

**Prayer for the Media**

**Song: Let Your Heart be Broken** (Bryan Jeffery Leech, like a river glorious)

Let your heart be broken for a world in need. Feed the mouths that hunger, soothe the wounds that bleed. Give the cup of water and the loaf of bread; be the hands of Jesus, serving in his stead.

Refrain: *Let your heart be tender and your vision clear – rouse yourself to action, serve God far and near.*

Blest to be a blessing, privileged to care, challenged by the need apparent everywhere, where the world is wanting fill the vacant place, be the means through which the Lord reveals his grace. *Refrain*

Add to your believing, deeds that prove it true – knowing Christ as Savior, make him Master too: follow in his footsteps, go where he has trod, in the world’s great trouble, risk yourself for God. *Refrain*

**Closing Prayer:**

Come let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, that we may walk the paths of the Most High. And we shall beat our swords into ploughshares and our spears into pruning hooks. Nation shall

not lift up sword against nation—neither shall they learn war any more. And none shall be afraid, for the mouth of the Lord of Hosts has spoken.

Grant us peace, Your most precious gift, O Eternal Source of peace, and give us the will to proclaim its message to all the peoples of the earth. Bless our country, that it may always be a stronghold of peace, and its advocate among the nations. May contentment reign within its borders, health and happiness within its homes. Strengthen the bonds of friendship among the inhabitants of all lands. And may the love of Your name hallow every home and every heart. Blessed is the Eternal God, the source of Peace. (The New Union Prayer Book, Central Conferences of American Rabbis)

**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.

*Spread the word about*

*Worship in the Spirit of Justice.*

*Visit [worship4justice.org](http://worship4justice.org) for more information and directions to next week’s service near the Sudan Embassy:*

**Sheridan Circle** (23<sup>rd</sup> St. and Massachusetts Ave, NW)

**We’ll see you there next week!**