

SEVENTH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT OF THE AME CHURCH

WORSHIP RESOURCES



SUNDAY
9.2.18

WRITTEN BY:

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CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: How long shall the wicked prosper and injustice reign in our land? How long shall the weak and needy be trampled over by the feet of those intoxicated with greed and power?

People: **Oh Lord, not long! Make us an instrument of thy justice.**

Leader: How long, shall the voiceless be without a voice? How long, oh God, shall the hungry be given the crumbs of the full?

People: **Oh Lord, not long! Make us an instrument of thy justice.**

Leader: How long, shall we remain silent in the face of injustice and oppression? How long shall we lower our voices to protect our own security and agendas?

People: **Oh Lord, not long! Make us an instrument of thy justice.**

Leader: Come ye chosen of God and worship the Lord who calls us to battle the injustices of our land.

People: **Lord we long for your justice and your peace to heal our land.**

Leader: Come you saints, created in the image of God and endowed with God's power, and do what God requires of us:

All: **We shall do justice. We shall love kindness. We shall walk humbly with You.**

Leader: Come Worship a God who calls us to build up God's Kingdom!

All: **Open our eyes to see it; our hands to serve it; and our hearts to hold it.**

OPENING PRAYER

We have come into this house of praise to worship you with our whole being. As we offer to you our praise today, help us to embrace Your mandate to seek justice for all of your people. Show us how to do what is right. Teach us to defend the defenseless, to advocate for the voiceless, to feed the hungry and give water to those who thirst. Give us the desire to stand up against the powers of this world and to fight until all of our children are free. Pour out on us the power of your Spirit and set our hearts ablaze to full your mission of righteousness in this world. Give us the Holy Ghost boldness to battle against the principalities of this world and the courage to step out of our own sense of comfort and security for your Kingdom's sake. Lord, we want to fulfill your will in the world. Give us the strength to hold up the blood stained banner until your return. We asked this in the name of the one who provided healthcare to the sick, food to the hungry, and living water to all who thirst; Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

SUGGESTED HYMNS

- **Renew Thy Church, Her Ministries Restore**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BNAQ3tmBCwg>
- **Thuma Mina**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JqrcLXsbZfQ>
- **We Shall Overcome** (Traditional Spiritual)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jW2MRTqzJug>
- **If You Live Right, Heaven Belongs to You** (Traditional Spiritual)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fp1AGf-GQO8>
- **God of Grace and God of Glory**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LYaJ1CYbn1c>
- **Glory, Glory Hallelujah** (Traditional)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zo8Ar1w-Cyg>

SUGGESTED SCRIPTURES

Old Testament (Hebrew Bible)

- Zechariah 7:9-10
- Deuteronomy 24:17-22
- Psalm 82
- Isaiah 1:11-20

New Testament (Hebrew Bible)

- Matthew 25:31-46
- Luke 4:14-21
- James 2:14-17

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION *(Before the Sermon)*

God, as we prepare to hear your word, open our eyes to see you and our ears to hear your word of justice. This we ask so that we may share your justice and peace in this world, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL *(Alter Call)*

- Leader:** Let us lift this prayer to the God who in Jesus calls us to be the salt and light in this unsavory and dark world.
- We pray that we be open to recognize all of your creation as made in your image and likeness of God.
- People:** **God in your mercy, hear our prayer.**
- Leader:** We pray that those who enjoy the riches of this world will use their resources for those who are without
- People:** **God in your mercy, hear our prayer.**
- Leader:** We pray that the leaders of this nation will legislate laws based on your justice and not their own selfish and greedy desires.
- People:** **God in your mercy, hear our prayer.**
- Leader:** We pray that you will guide us to vote into public office those who are committed to building a better nation and world by protecting the dignity of every person.
- People:** **God in your mercy, hear our prayer.**
- Leader:** We pray that every community in our nation will learn to embrace the gifts and help in the process of building a world of justice and peace through our participation in public life.
- People:** **God in your mercy, hear our prayer.**
- Leader:** We pray for the voiceless and the powerless, that the Lord will help them find their voices and their power through us.
- People:** **God in your mercy, hear our prayer.**
- Leader:** We pray for the African Methodist Episcopal Church. We pray that we will continue to remember the reason of our birth and be an instrument of reconciliation in the world.
- We pray for **insert name** our Bishop, **insert name** our Presiding Elder, **insert name** our Pastor, and all the leaders of our Zion. Lead and guide them as they remain faithful to your teachings.
- People:** **God in your mercy, hear our prayer.**
- Leader:** Hear us, Oh merciful Lord and cleanse us of all our sins through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

THE INVITATION:

Justice is a command by God for the Christian. Let us confess to the Lord our injustices.

THE CONFESSION:

All: Holy God, You called all that is into being and you have offered to all the newness of life. Yet we have not been in good relationship with the all those who struggle against oppression in this world. We have become distant from you and from our neighbor. We have failed to speak out for justice in our public lives and in our private lives. Forgive us our sins and wash us anew so that we may commit to being your instrument of justice in the world.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS:

Celebrant: God is just and forgiving! God receives us as we are! Lift up your heads and be people upholding the will of God in the world and receive God's pardon and peace knowing that all sins are forgiven.

People: Thanks be to God!

THE CONSECRATION OF THE ELEMENTS

The Celebrant Continues:

On the night before he died for us, Jesus took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples and said, "Take, eat: This is my body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

The Celebrant shall say:

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

THE LITANY OF COMMITMENT

- ALL:** God before you and all gathered, we affirm our commitment to be instruments of justice in your world.
- We will never allow injustice by indifference or cowardice.
- We will never seek to exploit others through fear, violence, or slander.
- We will seek peace and love rather than power or affluence.
- We will recognize and call out political corruption and purify it.
- We will love our neighbor as ourselves as we continue to love you.
- We will affirm that all people are made in your image and endowed with your power.
- We will vote in our elections, we will build up our communities, and we will create a better world for our children.
- We will follow you all the living of these days through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.
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THE BENEDICTION

And now unto God who gives us the power and strength to be God's instruments of justice, peace, and love in the world. Be all power, dominion, honor and glory, henceforth, now and forever. Amen.





NEXT LEVEL MINISTRY

AME7.CHURCH