INVOCATION

Holy God of Justice and Peace,
Divine parent of all.
Restore in us a spirit of
Hope, not fear
Justice, not corruption
Peace, not violence
So that we may be agents of your love,
bearing witness to your glorious salvation,
In the name of the triune God. Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: God asks us, “Whom shall I send, and
who will go for us?”
P: Here am I; send me!

L: God asks us, “Who will visit those who are
in prison and advocate for a justice system
that is fair and restorative?”
P: Here am I; send me!

L: God asks us, “Who will welcome the
stranger and recognize as family all who
call to Abba, Allah or Yahweh, regardless of
country of origin or immigration status?”
P: Here am I; send me!

L: God asks us, “Who will heal the wounds
of slavery, break the bonds of prejudice and
oppression, affirm in word and action that
Black and Brown lives matter as much as
White lives.”
P: Here am I; send me!

L: God asks us, “Who will care for the earth
and model a lifestyle rooted in stewardship,
that shares and protects the goodness
of creation?”
P: Here am I; send me!
ALL: Lead us, Spirit of God!

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

L: We are each complicit in systems that
harm our neighbors and circumvent God’s
vision of peace with justice. With the
confidence of God’s children, we confess
our failings.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

P: Merciful God,
We remember the times that we could have
spoken truth in love to the bully, the rude
co-worker, or the racist family member but
chose instead to stay comfortably silent.
We confess that when injustice does not directly affect us, we find it too easy to look the other way. We become frozen when we face the enormity of peacemaking, even though we know that the Body of Christ suffers when any of our sisters or brothers suffer.

Forgive us for our fear, complacency and complicity. Encourage us to leverage our privilege and use our resources to replace unjust systems with Beloved Community. (Hold silence.)

**Words of Assurance**

L: We are loved so much that God sent Jesus to us, not to condemn us, but to be saved through him. The prophet Isaiah wrote, “Your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out.” In the name of Jesus, you are forgiven.

P: Thank you, God. Amen.

**Scripture Reading**

Isaiah 6:1-8
Romans 8:12-17
Matthew 25:31-46

**Sermon**

“Here I Am. Send Me.”
OUR SOCIAL CREED

We believe in God, Creator of the world; and in Jesus Christ, the Redeemer of creation. We believe in the Holy Spirit, through whom we acknowledge God’s gifts, and we repent of our sin in misusing these gifts to idolatrous ends.

We affirm the natural world as God’s handiwork and dedicate ourselves to its preservation, enhancement, and faithful use by humankind. We joyfully receive for ourselves and others the blessings of community, sexuality, marriage, and the family.

We commit ourselves to the rights of men, women, children, youth, young adults, the aging, and people with disabilities; to improvement of the quality of life; and to the rights and dignity of all persons.

We believe in the right and duty of persons to work for the glory of God and the good of themselves and others and in the protection of their welfare in so doing; in the rights to property as a trust from God, collective bargaining, and responsible consumption; and in the elimination of economic and social distress.

We dedicate ourselves to peace throughout the world, to the rule of justice and law among nations, and to individual freedom for all people of the world.

We believe in the present and final triumph of God’s Word in human affairs and gladly accept our commission to manifest the life of the gospel in the world. Amen.

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"Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?' And I said, 'Here am I. Send me!'"

Isaiah 6:8
PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE: COMPANION LITANY TO OUR SOCIAL CREED

God in the Spirit revealed in Jesus Christ, calls us by grace
to be renewed in the image of our Creator, that we may be one in divine love for the world.

Today is the day
God cares for the integrity of creation, wills the healing and wholeness of all life, weeps at the plunder of earth’s goodness. And so shall we.

Today is the day
God embraces all hues of humanity, delights in diversity and difference, favors solidarity transforming strangers into friends. And so shall we.

Today is the day
God cries with the masses of starving people, despises growing disparity between rich and poor, demands justice for workers in the marketplace. And so shall we.

Today is the day
God deplores violence in our homes and streets, rebukes the world’s warring madness, humbles the powerful and lifts up the lowly. And so shall we.

Today is the day
God calls for nations and peoples to live in peace, celebrates where justice and mercy embrace, exults when the wolf grazes with the lamb. And so shall we.

Today is the day
God brings good news to the poor, proclaims release to the captives, gives sight to the blind, and sets the oppressed free. And so shall we.

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Mission Moment
Peace with Justice Sunday Offering

Invitation to the Offering
We are heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ. Let us offer back to God now what we have inherited. May these gifts be multiplied and used for peace with justice in the ministries of this congregation, this conference and throughout the world.

Doxology for Peace
(origin unknown – tune Old 100th)

Praise God all peoples of the earth,
Praise God for the great gift of birth,
Praise God who rules the nation still,
God bend them to your perfect will.

Praise God the creator of all,
Peoples and nations great and small,
Praise God who maketh wars to cease,
God, lead us in the paths of peace.

Benediction
As we go into the world
May the Divine Parent lead us to be agents of peace with justice
May the Holy Spirit fill us with a spirit not of fear, but of adoption
So that all who we meet will know the love and grace of Jesus Christ.
Go now in peace.