PEACE WITH JUSTICE SUNDAY

LITURGY
INVOCATION
Sovereign God,
We give thanks
For the majestic creation that you called good.
Open our hearts and minds to be creators of your peace with justice.
Remind us of the responsibility with which you entrusted us to care for the work of your hands.
Move us to repair what is broken in your world and to plant holy seeds so that your garden will flourish once again.
In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP
L: Sovereign God, how majestic is your name in all the earth.
   You created plants, trees and water that nurture and nourish
P: And you declared it very good!

L: You created fish, birds and mammals in a perfect balance
P: And you declared it very good!

L: You created us in the diversity of your image
P: And you declared it very good!

L: You breathed your breath into all of creation
P: And, indeed, it is very good!

CALL TO RECONCILIATION
L: The Creator gave us authority over all that was good, and we have fallen short. We are invited to turn to God and ask for forgiveness.

UNISON PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS
P: God of justice and peace, We know that you created us in the diversity of your image But still we refuse to see you reflected in the face of our neighbor who Lacks adequate health care, Experiences hunger, Doesn’t have a home.

We don’t see your image in the face of our neighbor who Has a different skin tone, Worships in a different tradition, Speaks in a language we don’t understand.

Forgive us for lashing out from our sense of scarcity and greed, ignorance and fear.
Turn us around to be peacemakers and justice builders, recognizing the abundance and balance of your garden.  
(Hold silence)

WORDS OF ASSURANCE
L: Paul writes to the church in Corinth, “agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you.” In our faithfulness, we know that Jesus forgives us and guides us back to the garden path.  
P: Thank you, God. Amen.

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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PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE
Companion Litany to Our Social Creed
A 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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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
Friends, go from here filled with the
   breath of our creator,
plant a garden of justice and peace and
infuse the earth with the grace of the
   Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God and
   the communion of
   the Holy Spirit.