

Opening Litany for Justice
Service of Repentance and Consecration
HKonJ People's Assembly
February 8, 2014

One: Sisters and Brothers, God has called us to this day, to this place, for this moment. We come first in gratitude for the One who has called us together.

All: Holy One, we know what you require of us: to do justice, to love mercy, to walk humbly with you. We come in gratitude, asking your blessing.

One: We have come from many different places, backgrounds, and beliefs.

All: We come with one voice and one hope: that God's justice might roll down like the waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

One: As people of faith, we give witness: we cannot claim to love our neighbor while refusing them access to healthcare or a living wage or a vote.

All: We call upon our leaders to do what is moral, what is just, what is right. We pray for them, that their eyes shall be opened to see their neighbors, to love them as God loves.

One: In the face of those "who make iniquitous decrees, who write oppressive statutes, to turn aside the needy from justice and rob the poor of their rights,"

All: We will not be afraid. We will not be silent!

One: In the face of those who "devise mischief by decree," who blame those who suffer, who cast as enemy our teachers, immigrants, people of color,

All: In the face of those who would deepen divisions of race, sexual orientation, and class: we will not be afraid. We will not be silent!

One: As people of faith, joining with all who hunger and thirst for righteousness,

All: We will not be afraid. We will not be silent!

One: Trusting in the Holy One who grants us courage in the struggle for justice and peace,

All: With one voice, one heart, we cry out for justice this day. We move forward together, not one step back!

The Litany reflects Micah 6:8, Amos 5:24, Luke 10:27, Luke 19:39-40; quotes are from Isaiah 10:1-2; Psalm 94:20.

**Closing Affirmation of Commitment
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Leader:

Let us join together in affirming our commitment to our world, to each other, and to fulfilling the call of our Creator to care for one another.

All:

Holy One, Creator and Redeemer, You are not a divider who cares only for a few. You know each of us, love us equally, and provide us with a world where all can have enough.

We commit ourselves to being voices for every one of our sisters and brothers; to working for a society where every individual is recognized and valued; to demanding leadership grounded in compassion and justice.

We are reminded that you did not put us here to build up ourselves but to build up your realm.

And we ask your forgiveness, Loving God, for the times we have forgotten your simple call shared with us by the prophet Jeremiah:

“Do what is just and right. Rescue from the hand of the oppressor the one who has been robbed. Do no wrong or violence to the foreigner, the fatherless or the widow, and do not shed innocent blood in this place.”

We affirm to you and to each other that we will be steadfast in our work for a just, compassionate, and inclusive North Carolina as you are steadfast in your generous, infinite love for us.

Amen.