



#3: Freedom is Coming

Listen to track 3 of *Songs of Justice and Peace*.

Scripture:

“Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

Who, being in the very nature of God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death— even death on a cross!” Philippians 2:3-8

Devotion:

“Freedom is coming, yes I know.” In this song we can almost hear South Africans willing their freedom into being, praying it into being. Their cause was just, as is the cause of many who still struggle for their freedom today. As Christians, we know that God calls us to do our part in living out love and compassion for those who suffer, to help them to find the freedom that they are seeking.

We also know, however, that in our attempts to help, our intentions are not always pure, the consequences of our actions are complex, and sometimes we even do more harm than good.

As various countries of the world continue to undergo radical political changes, and different religious, political and economic perspectives vie for influence and power, we are called to remember Christ's example of humility and empathy. In the incarnation, God became one of us in order to understand our predicament. What a comfort to know that God meets us where we are, even when our good intentions go awry, and that God gives us an example to follow when we want to show love to those struggling for freedom.

Prayer: Holy and humble Lord, I am but one person. Teach me to follow your example of servant-service. Give me wisdom to listen before I act, and empathy to learn and hear other perspectives. In your holy name I pray. Amen.

Reflection: When you hear about struggles for freedom around the world, what message do you hear? How can we, as God’s people, work for freedom in a diverse world?

Deaconess Katherine Peters, San Jose, Costa Rica

The Lutheran Deaconess Association prepares people for ministries of service to those in need in the church and the world; supports deaconesses in their varied ministries; encourages the whole people of God in their own Christian service; and assists the church in its diaconal mission.

Website: www.TheLDA.org