

#10: When the Poor Ones: Cuando El Pobre

Listen to track 10 of *Songs of Justice and Peace*.

You can find the words in ELW 725. (Evangelical Lutheran Worship)

Scripture:

“I will place my dwelling in your midst... I will walk among you, and will be your God, and you shall be my people.” Lev. 26:11-12

Devotions:

There, in southern, inland, Brazil, we put on our walking shoes. We walked dirt paths where family farmers grow vegetables, coffee beans, and coconuts. We walked the grassy fields where snake boxes are filled with anti-venom for hapless travellers who might get bitten. We walked stone sidewalks to see cacao beans and drying racks for bananas.

We stopped at a home where a woman baked us a coconut cake. She apologized for using juice instead of milk. She had to sell the cow in order to buy an old car, so she can drive the neighborhood children eight miles to school. This family had so little in comparison to us; and yet they shared what they had, offering comfort and gladness to our tired feet.

These people could walk a different path. They could walk in the way of large corporations, which take the best lands, the ancestral lands, for their own profit, with little care what happens to the people. They could walk in the way of the government, which allows this action. Or they could walk in the way of the Church, which organizes cooperatives where families can pool their resources for the betterment of all.

We walked, for a few days, with these people, who walk in the way of sharing and caring. And we saw God, there by our side, walking our way.

Prayer:

Vs 3: “When our spirits, like a chalice, brim with gladness; when our voices, full and clear, sing out the truth; when our longings, free from envy, seek the humble: we see God, here by our side, walking our way.” Open our eyes, Lord, to see the places you walk. Teach us what we yet may do to be united with the poor in many lands. Amen.

Reflection:

Put a shoe in the middle of your group. Where have these shoes been today? If this shoe could talk, what would it say about your mission experience? How was God walking with you today?

Deaconess Diane Marten, Valparaiso, IN

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