



#12: We Are Called

Listen to track 12 of *Songs of Justice and Peace*.

You can find the words in ELW 720. (Evangelical Lutheran Worship)

Scripture:

“For once you were in darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as a child of light — for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true.”

Ephesians 5:8-9

Devotions:

It was raw that spring day: cold, wet and windy. We wondered how many would attend our forum. We planned to promote justice in training and employment opportunities, resulting from major construction projects slated for our area.

I sat at the registration table. A few people trickled in, singly and in pairs. And we fretted. But as minutes ticked by, the trickle became a flood. In they came, shaking off the weather, filling the room and then some. We had hoped for 50; more than 70 came, a cross section of our community, drawn together by the quest for justice. We scurried to put up additional seating, assuring all were fed and provided with materials.

The presentation began: the story of others who stood for economic justice and won a victory which forever changed the lives of entire communities. A flame was kindled. . . .we can do this, too. . . it burned brighter. . . will you join us. . . the light was passed. . . stand with us for justice. The assembly got on their feet, ready to bear the light out of that room and into their community.

It will take more than good intentions to keep the flame kindled that day from being snuffed out. We will need to plan, to strategize and to invite others to join us. It will not be easy: the darkness doesn't like to be exposed for what it is. But once you have lived in the light, for even a moment, there is no turning back; only forging ahead, together, toward the day when justice will roll down like that afternoon's driving rain. And then some!

Prayer:

God whose Spirit stirs up the water, who made us children of light, grant us the passion, the courage and the energy to bear your light into dark places, where injustice and oppression thrive. Make us strong for the fight. Unite us in purpose. Fill us with the vision of the Kingdom announced by Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Reflection:

Gather a small bowl of water, a clay pot filled with sand, 4 candles, and a lighter or matches.

- Dip your hand into the water, remembering your Baptism, in which you were made a Child of Light.
- Light a candle, place it in the sand; pray for the victims of the situation.
- Light another candle; pray for the oppressors.
- Light a third candle; ask God for a vision of what can be.
- Light a final candle; ask God to show you how you might help bring that vision to reality.

Deaconess student Nancy Walter, Schererville, IN

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.

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