



Let Justice and Peace Flow

A Mighty River

Amos 5:24

Season of Creation - Week 4

Scriptures

Isaiah 55: 6-9 • Psalm 145: 2-3, 8-9, 17-18
Philippians: 1:20c-24, 27a • Matthew 20: 1-16a

The fourth Sunday's scriptures remind us that God's ways are not our ways, and they invite us to contemplate some of God's Jubilee ways of living on Earth, giving birth to the New Creation.

At Saint Anne...

We continue to invite parishioners to pick up a river rock in the Gathering Space and write on it a phrase that reflects their commitment to actions that care for creation. Individuals can lay their rocks along the "river" and be a part of the cascading impact that we create for justice and peace.



"...to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God."

Micah 6:8

The Call to Consider What We Need

God's ways are not our ways. The parable in the gospel in which the owner of the vineyard gives a full day's wage to all, regardless of how long they worked, often stirs complaints about fairness. But those who worked the longest, the whole day, received what they had agreed was a just wage. The wages of day laborers are often all that their family has to survive on for a given day; and so the generosity of the vineyard owner served to meet the people's basic daily needs.

This parable shows us a compensation system based on the agreed-upon value of certain work and care to meet the basic needs of all workers. It is not based upon comparative, competitive, unlimited accumulation. God's ways challenge us. A central belief of the Catholic Social Tradition confesses that the Earth is God's and everything in it. Creation is a gift of God to all people and living creatures, a gift to provide for the needs of all for survival, growth, and flourishing.

Faith Reflection Questions

In his message for the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, Pope Francis reflects on the 2023 theme for the Season of Creation, "Let justice and peace flow," and asks:

- How can we contribute to the mighty river of justice and peace in this Season of Creation?
- What can we, particularly as Christian communities, do to heal our common home so that it can once again teem with life?

We must do this by resolving to transform our hearts, our lifestyles, and the public policies ruling our societies.

He goes on to conclude, "Economic policies that promote scandalous wealth for a privileged few and degrading conditions for many others, spell the end of peace and justice."

- How can we and our communities embrace God's ways of justice, peace, and jubilee here, now?
- How can we do more to heal our relationships with God, with people, with Earth in ways that respond with love and care to the cry of the poor and the cry of Earth?
- How can we practice Gospel nonviolence in all our relationships? In our lifestyles? Through social outreach, social media? By studying the needs of our localities, regions, ecosystems? Through joining peoples' campaigns and social movements locally and globally? Through

political advocacy locally, nationally, globally? In our families? In businesses and organizations? In our schools, educational institutions, and faith communities? In our financial activities and organizations? In our health care systems? As part of the global Laudato Sí Action Platform movement?