

Justice

Prayers and worship resources on the theme of 'Justice' – updated December 2014



The Call

'Let justice roll down like a river, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.'

The call of God – we hear it in our worship, it cries out to us in our communities, it challenges our nation, and echoes round our world.

'Bring in justice and righteousness, work for a world that is better, and never give up, never give in, never let the process stop.'

Here, in prayer and worship, we wrestle with the call. With no easy answers, no instant promises but the words that tell us what is required of everyone, of us:

'Act justly, love mercy, walk humbly with your God.'

The Justice of Jesus

You said: "The Spirit of God has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor." You sat with the outcast, shared with the needy and stood by the side of the lowly:

This is your justice, Jesus.

You said: "God sent me to proclaim freedom for those in prison." You offered forgiveness to those who could not forgive themselves, you broke that which bound and constrained and brought the relief of liberation:

This is your justice, Jesus.

You said: "God sent me to proclaim the recovery of sight for the blind." You gently opened eyes that were tight shut, poured light into dark places and made the sick whole:

This is your justice, Jesus.

You said: "God sent me to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour." You shred your treasures with women, did not judge others and helped people believe in a God of hope:

This is your justice, Jesus.

You are the Christ – the grace of God made flesh for us.

A Kingdom Litany

When the world is weary of doing what is right and good:

Your kingdom come through us we pray.

When war, aggression and violence seem to be spiralling out of control:

Your kingdom come through us we pray.

When people around us feel lost and don't know where they belong:

Your kingdom come through us we pray.

When hope is hard to find and despair is knocking at the door:

Your kingdom come through us we pray.

When families struggle to know where the next meal will come from:

Your kingdom come through us we pray.

When prejudice seems to be the easy way and injustice its result:

Your kingdom come through us we pray.

Jesus taught us to pray for the coming of your kingdom; through our willing hearts and hands may your kingdom come and your will be done.

Praying Justice into Being

Gracious God, at our time of need you came alongside us in Jesus, sharing our flesh, help us to come alongside those in need so that they might know you as a God who cares, when life throws them little but unending difficulties.

We pray for all those who go on a journey to find a different life for themselves and their families, for asylum seekers fleeing attack and hostility, for economic migrants simply seeking something better:

God, hear us.

We pray for those who struggle to find life's basic needs, food, water and shelter; we pray for foodbanks and all those who seek to help:

God, hear us.

We pray for all those who live life on the streets of our cities and towns, encountering danger and finding themselves in situations of risk; we pray for all street pastors and street walkers:

God, hear us.

We pray for all who seek to make justice a reality in this country and abroad, for solicitors working for little or no money, for legal aid workers and for all those who seek to offer pastoral care for those facing the prospect of months or years in the interminable wrangling of a legal system they struggle to understand:

God, hear us.

Hear us, gracious God, and let your Spirit working in us inspire us to new leaps of faith and love as we seek to make your love and care a reality in this world.

A New Year, A New Hope & A Blessing

Ever hopeful God, in Jesus Christ and his resurrection you teach us never to give up hope, even when life brings us to a cross. At the beginning of this new year fill our hearts with hope for increasing justice and peace in our world, and give us the strength and determination to work with your Spirit in changing the world around us.

May eyes to see things differently be yours;
May ears to hear stories in new ways be yours;
May mouths to speak fresh hope be yours;
and in this new year may God bless you.

*Prayers by David Warrington, Pastor of Grove Lane Baptist Church, Cheadle Hulme
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Faith and Society Team, Baptist Union of Great Britain, Baptist House, PO Box 44, 129 Broadway, Didcot OX11 8RT

Tel: 01235 517700 Email: faithandsociety@baptist.org.uk Website: www.baptist.org.uk

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