Holding Vigil with our Neighbors in Distress:

A workers' call for dignity and human rights

Welcome

"Every single day we sit down to eat, breakfast, lunch, and dinner, and at our table we have food that was planted, picked, or harvested by a farm worker. Why is it that the people who do the most sacred work in our nation are the most oppressed, the most exploited?" – Dolores Huerta

♪ If I had a hammer, I'd hammer in the morning, I'd hammer in the evening, all over this land
I'd hammer out danger, I'd hammer out a warning,
I'd hammer out love between my brothers and my sisters all over this land

If I had a bell, I'd ring it in the morning, I'd ring it in the evening, all over this land
I'd ring out danger, I'd ring out a warning
I'd ring out love between my brothers and my sisters all over this land

If I had a song, I'd sing it in the morning, I'd sing it in the evening, all over this land
I'd sing out danger, I'd sing out a warning
I'd sing out love between my brothers and my sisters all over this land

Well I got a hammer and I got a bell
And I got a song to sing all over this land
It's the hammer of justice, it's the bell of freedom
It's a song about love between my brothers and my sisters all over this land

Selections from Celtic Prayers from Iona (J. Philip Newell) (adapted):

O God who brought us
from the rest of last night
To the new light of this day
Bring us in the new light of this day
To the guiding light of the eternal.
Lead us O God on the journey of justice
Guide us O God on the pathways of peace
Renew us O God by the wellsprings of grace
Today, tonight, and forever.

♪ How many roads must a man walk down before you call him a man?
How many seas must a white dove sail before she sleeps in the sand?
How many times must the cannonballs fly before they're forever banned?

Chorus: The answer, my friend, is blowin' in the wind
The answer is blowin' in the wind

how many years must a mountain exist before it is washed to the sea?
how many years can some people exist before they're allowed to be free?
how many times can a man turn his head and pretend that he just doesn't see? (Chorus)

how many times must a man look up before he can see the sky?
how many ears must one man have before he can hear people cry?
how many deaths will it take 'til he knows that too many people have died? (Chorus)

Responsive Prayer
We will share in a few prayers, each ending with a call “O God of the poor and the yearning…”
We will respond in kind:

Sidewalk side:
Kindle in my heart withinA flame of love
Grass side...
for my neighbor, For my foe, for my friend, for my kindred all.

♪ Come, labor on.
Who dares stand idle on the harvest plain while all around us waves the golden grain? And to each servant does the Master say,
"Go work today."

Come, labor on.
Claim the high calling angels cannot share; to young and old the gospel gladness bear. Redeem the time; its hours too swiftly fly. The night draws nigh.

Come, labor on.
Cast off all gloomy doubt and faithless fear! No arm so weak but may do service here. Though feeble agents, may we all fulfill God's righteous will.

Come, labor on.
No time for rest, till glows the western sky, till the long shadows o'er our pathway lie, and a glad sound comes with the setting sun,
"Well done, well done!"

Homily Rev Michael Airgood

♪ When the poor ones who have nothing share with strangers, when the thirsty water give unto us all, when the crippled in their weakness strengthen others,

[Chorus] then we know that God still goes that road with us, then we know that God still goes that road with us.

When at last all those who suffer find their comfort, when they hope though even hope seems hopelessness, when we love though hate at times seems all around us, [Chorus]

When our joy fills up our cup to overflowing, when our lips can speak no words other than true, when we know that love for simple things is better, [Chorus]

When our homes are filled with goodness in abundance, when we learn how to make peace instead of war, when each stranger that we meet is called a neighbor, [Chorus]

Announcements

Litany for Those Who Work (with sung response)
LEADER: O Lord God: you are ever at work in the world for us and for all humanity. Guide and protect all who work to get their living.
PEOPLE: Amen.
LEADER: For those who plow the earth, For those who tend machinery;
PEOPLE: Work with them, O God.
LEADER: For those who sail deep waters, For those who venture into space;
PEOPLE: Work with them, O God.
LEADER: For those who work in offices and warehouses, For those who labor in stores or factories;
PEOPLE: Work with them, O God.

♪ Traveling on life's daily journey, we never walk alone.
Mary, our mother, is with us, sharing our pilgrim road.

Come with us, Maria, as we walk. Come with us as we walk.
Come with us, Maria, as we walk. Come with us as we walk.

LEADER: For those who work in mines, For those who buy and sell;
PEOPLE: Work with them, O God.
LEADER: For those who entertain us, For those who broadcast or publish;
PEOPLE: Work with them, O God.
LEADER: For those who keep house, For those who train children;
PEOPLE: Work with them, O God.

♪ Even if somebody tells you, that nothing can ever change
fight for a new world together; fight for the truth. (Chorus)

LEADER: For all who live by strength of arm, For all who live by skill of hand;
PEOPLE: Work with them, O God.
LEADER: For all who employ or govern;
PEOPLE: Work with them, O God.
LEADER: For all who excite our minds with art, science, or learning;
PEOPLE: Work with them, O God.

LEADER: For all who instruct, For writers and teachers;
PEOPLE: Work with them, O God.
LEADER: For all who serve the public good in any way by working;
PEOPLE: Work with them, O God.

♪ Even if nobody sees you, nor see's God's presence in you.
Look at whose hand you are holding, and keep on walking with God. (Chorus)

LEADER: For all who labor without hope, For all who labor without interest; For those who have too little leisure, For those who have too much leisure; For those who are underpaid,For those who pay small wages; For those who cannot work, For those who look in vain for work; For those who trade on troubles of others, For profiteers, extortioners, collaborators and greedy people;
PEOPLE: Great God: we pray your mercy, grace, and saving power.
LEADER: Work through us and help us always to work for the rights of your people.
PEOPLE: Amen.

♪ Though many steps on the journey seem to be made in vain
still we are forging a pathway others will walk one day (chorus)

Silent prayer facing the ICE building

♪ Mientras recorres la vida, tú nunca solo estás,
contigo por el camino santa María va.

VEN CON NOSOTROS AL CAMINAR, SANTA MARÍA, VEN. (BIS)

Aunque te digan algunos que nada puede cambiar,
lucha por un mundo nuevo, lucha por la verdad.

Si por el mundo los hombres sin conocerse van,
no niegues nunca tu mano al que contigo va.

Aunque parezcan tus pasos inútil caminar,
tú vas haciendo caminos: otros los seguirán.

