

September 26, 2021
Aldersgate UMC of Butte, Montana
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Pastor Matthias Krier

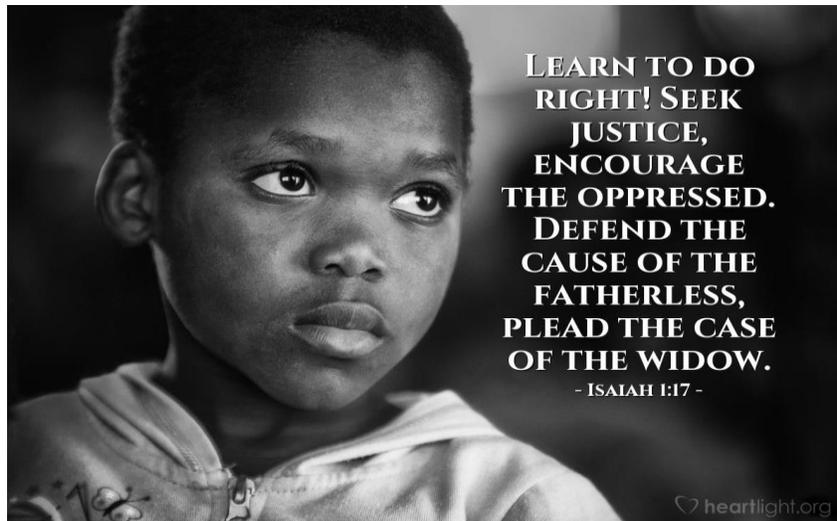
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Message

Songs of Justice

Throughout history, every generation of Christians have sung songs of justice! For centuries, the poor and oppressed have sung songs of justice! For millennia the prophets have spoken loud and clear the wisdom for those who claim to be the people of God! We will take a look at just a few of the admonitions given to us to live a life of contemplation and action.

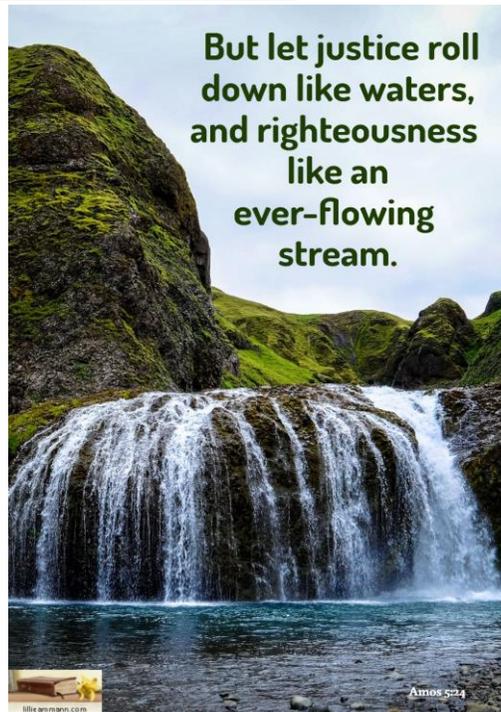
First example comes from the prophet Isaiah:



I would ask you to read this one more time, silently, to yourself.

If we ever hope, as a people of God, to live in harmony with one another we need to practice these words from the prophet Isaiah.

From the prophet Amos we hear this:



Amos 5:24

And then we hear these familiar words from the prophet Micah:



The words from the prophets and especially from the prophet Micah offer a way in which to live a balanced spirituality. All three of these are needed to live the abundant life Yeshua promised. Any one of these by themselves is

incomplete in living a life of contemplation and action. I believe we are called to be contemplatives in action, but we need all three of these to live a balanced spirituality: *act justly, to love kindness and to walk humbly with God!*

As I was preparing for the service on Wednesday morning, I listened again to this song we are about to sing. I realized this is a song for all of God's people! But more importantly, this is my song. I claim this song! I embrace this song as a way to live as a contemplative in action!

In actuality, this is a vision of who we are called to be and what we are called to do! Don't get me wrong, I have a lot of favorite songs and hymns, but this song sings my mission statement that I've had for several decades and it still brings tears to my eyes as I think about who calls us, and what we are called to do. Over the years, due to church politics, pastors can get discouraged. These words, this song we are about to sing has not only inspired, it has empowered me through the most difficult of times.

If this song does not do that for you, tell me your song that brings you to tears, that brings you to a time of reflection and contemplation and a song that brings you to action. Simply put, I would not be here as a pastor in this church or any other church without these words from Micah. It is as simple as that! It has been what empowers me to get out of bed in the morning and put one foot in front of the other.

I have asked Fred to sing the verses of this song as we join in on the refrain. Let us prepare for the Sacrament of Holy Communion with this song, "*We Are Called*":

Hymn of Preparation # 2172

We Are Called

Fred Crase

(congregation: please join in on the refrain)

Embedded if needed

[WE ARE CALLED](#)

Let us pray:

Oh gracious and everlasting God,
By the grace of God,
May we seek justice,
Love kindness
And walk humbly with you
Day by day.
In your name we pray. Amen!