

SOCIAL JUSTICE PRAYER NETWORK
Prayers for the period beginning October 1, 2009

*My God, my God, why have you forsaken us?
Why are you so far from helping us, from the words of our groaning?
O my God, we cry by day, but you do not answer...*

Like Job, we don't understand why there is so much suffering
and why God does not seem to answer our prayers.
We sometimes feel forsaken.
But there will surely come a day on which we will join with Isaiah in saying,

*... God will swallow up death forever.
God will wipe away the tears from all faces...
Lo, this is our God for whom we have waited, so that we might be saved.
This is our God for whom we have waited;
let us be glad and rejoice in God's salvation.*

We give thanks for the more than 400 Jews, Muslims, and Christians who gathered at the 2nd Annual Lake Junaluska Peace Conference in September. We pray for genuine peace in the Middle East. We pray that all religions may learn to live together in peace everywhere.

We pray that as we celebrate World Communion Sunday on October 4th, we may truly be “one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world.”

We pray for immigration reform and that we might welcome the stranger and care for those in need.

We pray for meaningful health care reform and that every one might receive adequate and compassionate health care.

As we observe October as Domestic Violence Month, we pray for healing and peace in homes, churches, communities, and countries. May every tear be wiped away.

We pray for those we know personally to be victims of oppression and injustice. Those who are rejected ignored and scorned. And we pray for those who suffer unknown and unnamed.

We pray for the victims of recent natural disasters— earthquake, tsunami, floods, fires. May we never grow too weary or overwhelmed to care and extend compassion.

We pray for the healing and wholeness of all creation and all peoples.

Scripture references in order: Psalm 22:1-2a, NRSV adapted, Lectionary October 11
See October Lectionary readings for Job's story
Isaiah 25:8-9, NRSV Adapted, Lectionary All Saints Day
Quote from UM Service of Word and Table