

SOCIAL JUSTICE PRAYER NETWORK
Prayers for the Period beginning November 1, 2009

This month's lectionary readings include the stories of three persistently faithful women who loved God. Among the meanings to be found in the story of Ruth and Naomi, is the affirmation that God loves and works through ALL people, including women and aliens. Every human being is important to God. Because of her persistent faithfulness to Naomi, Ruth the Moabite marries Boaz and becomes the grandmother of David. She can be found listed as part of Jesus' genealogy. Meanwhile, Hannah sings her own "Magnificat" declaring God's concern for the poor and oppressed.

Let us be as inclusive, compassionate and faithful as Naomi, Ruth and Hannah. Let us continue to pray for meaningful immigration reform and for health care for everyone. We give thanks for the legislators who advocate for the welfare of every human being dwelling in our country. We pray that the hearts of all those who govern will be moved to make wise and compassionate decisions.

Let us give thanks for Naomi, Ruth and Hannah. Let us remember all those Saints who have gone before us working for peace and justice. Let us give thanks for those who committed civil disobedience, those who have ministered to people in need, those who have continued the work despite the hardships or the odds.

*"God lives among human beings. God's home will be among us;
we will be God's people, and God will be our God, god-with-us.
God will wipe away all tears from our eyes;
there will be no more death, and no more mourning or sadness or pain."*
(REVELATION 21:3B-4A, ADAPTED, THE NEW JERUSALEM BIBLE)

Let us sing Hannah's song of hope and faith in a God of steadfast love. Let us give thanks for all our many blessings but let us also pray and work for those who have little to be thankful for, who have no place to sleep, who have little food to eat, who are at risk of rape, violence and death every day, who are ill or dying, who suffer from preventable illnesses, who have no jobs/health care/security/hope, whose lives are less than what they could be because of the greed and selfishness of others.

*"God knows everything we need.
If we first seek God's reign, and God's justice,
all these things will be given to us besides."*
(MATTHEW 6:32B-33, ADAPTED, THE INCLUSIVE BIBLE)

Let us pray to be a more compassionate and caring nation, seeking peace worldwide. Let us pray to be God's people of persistent faith and inclusivity. Let us pray to be a light to the nations, showing God's steadfast love and justice to all. Let us persist in praying for all who have HIV/AIDS. Let us enter Advent as a people called to bring the light of love to all the world.

(The stories of Ruth and Hannah and all other scripture verses are from Lectionary readings in November, including All Saints Day and Thanksgiving Day.)

To suggest concerns for listing on the Prayer Network, contact: Edie Harris, SJPN Facilitator: edieannh@gmail.com

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To be added to the SJPN mailing list, contact: Methodist Federation for Social Action

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