

SOCIAL JUSTICE PRAYER NETWORK
Prayers for the Period beginning January 1, 2012

There's an opportune time to do things, a right time for everything on earth:

*A right time for birth and another for death,
A right time to plant and another to reap,
A right time to kill and another to heal,
A right time to destroy and another to construct,
A right time to cry and another to laugh,
A right time to lament and another to cheer,
A right time to make love and another to abstain,
A right time to embrace and another to part,
A right time to search and another to count your losses,
A right time to hold on and another to let go,
A right time to rip out and another to mend,
A right time to shut up and another to speak up,
A right time to love and another to hate,
A right time to wage war and another to make peace.*

*“Then the King will say, ‘I’m telling the solemn truth:
Whenever you did one of these things to someone overlooked or ignored,
that was me—you did it to me.’”*

**It is time for another new year. Much seems the same as when 2011 began, but much has changed.
It is always time to pray. It is always time to care for the oppressed and suffering.
Scripture gives us the framework for our prayers and our discipleship;
our relationship with God guides our individual journey.**

We pray for those who will be born that they might live long and healthy lives.

We pray for those who will die and those who will lose loved ones to death.

We pray that we might plant good crops and reap our harvest in peace and justice.

We pray that few will be killed and that wounded hearts and souls and bodies will be healed.

We pray that we might destroy that which is hardhearted within ourselves and in the world
and that we might construct the beginnings of Shalom in every place.

We pray for comfort for those who cry and lament.

We give thanks for those who laugh and cheer and join them in their thanksgiving.

We give thanks for lovers of all kinds and pray for those who are unloved or have no one to love.

We give thanks for those who search for justice and peace
and pray for those who have lost their jobs, their homes, their country, their security, their hope.

We pray for the courage to hold on to righteousness, to hope, to faith.

We pray for the ability to let go of pride, selfishness, prejudice and hate.

We pray that we might recognize what to rip out of our lives and the lives of others.

We pray for the compassion to mend lives, hearts and souls.

We pray that we might listen to the wounded and speak up for the oppressed.

We pray that we might love and accept all people and hate injustice.

We pray that we might wage war on our own sins and make peace a reality.