



BECOMING A
JUSTICE-SEEKING
CHURCH

Sermon Series Autumn 2023

Based on The Revised Common Lectionary
and the "Walking with Micah" Project

Lichfield **Methodist** Church 

Sunday 15 October

A Justice-Seeking Church
embraces the excluded

Year A, Ordinary 28

God consistently shows a bias to people experiencing poverty and those who are excluded. The search for justice must attend to those who live in poverty, and those who are marginalised in other ways, as a priority.
Walking with Micah Report to Conference 2023

Lectionary Readings

Exodus 32: 1-14
The Golden Calf

Isaiah 25: 1- 9
*Bringing down tyrants
A refuge for the poor*

Psalms 106: 1-6, 19-20
Confession for idolatry

Psalms 23
The Lord is my Shepherd

Phil 4: 1-9
Stand firm, Meditate on good things

Matthew 22: 1-14
Parable of the Banquet

Possible Approaches

God is a refuge for the poor (**Isa 25**) and offers radical hospitality to those who are excluded (**Matt 22**). We are called to repent for valuing the things of this world, like those bowing to a golden calf (**Exo 32, Ps 106**) and to embrace all God's children - offering a place of sanctuary and belonging for all.

Priority for Justice: Seeking Justice for Refugees (One People, One World)

The ministry highlight for this week can include **Church of Sanctuary**, praying also for **Lichfield Refugee Aid**. There is potential to invite asylum seekers from Cannock to share their stories if they would like to. Relevant "practices for justice" include: being with not for; humility in community; relationship building.

Worship Resources

SONGS:

Beauty for Brokenness (STF 693)
Come, Now, You Blessed (STF 695)
God of Justice, Saviour to All (STF 699)
I Will Speak Out (STF 702)
There are No Strangers to God's Love (STF 716)
The Love of God Comes Close (STF 654)
[It's Not Enough](#)



Sunday 22 October

A Justice-Seeking Church
speaks truth to power

Year A, Ordinary 29

God entrusts those in power with a special responsibility for upholding justice. Those seeking justice will encourage and challenge those with power to fulfil their vocation.

Walking with Micah Report to Conference 2023

Lectionary Readings

Exodus 33: 12-23

Moses sees God's face

"My presence will go with you"

Isaiah 45: 1-7:

God uses Cyrus

Psalm 99:

God is holy and just

Psalm 96: 1-9, 10-13

Judge justly with righteousness

1 Thes 1: 1-10

Faithfulness in spite of suffering

Matthew 22: 15-22

God and Caesar (taxes)

Possible Approaches

Politics and faith are not separate; God's kingdom is about communities living in justice. Although Cyrus was a gentile, God anointed him for God's purpose of justice (**Isaiah 45**). When worldly powers are unjust / exploitative, they have taken for Caesar what belongs to God (**Matt 22**). The church is called to challenge those in power. This calls for courage and faithfulness despite persecution (**1 Thes 1**).

Priority for Justice:

Tackling inequality and poverty (Seeking Life in its Fullness)

The ministry highlight for this week can include the **Justice, Dignity and Solidarity Cluster**. Relevant practices for justice include: self-awareness and power; visibility and transformation; changing rules or practices; creative or symbolic acts; Visible activism; being with not for; humility in community; relationship building.

Worship Resources

SONGS:

Heaven Will Not Wait (STF 701)

In An Age of Twisted Values (STF 703)

It is God Who Holds the Nations (STF 705)

Pray for the Church, afflicted and oppressed (STF 711)

Show Me How to Stand for Justice (STF 713)

We Pray for Peace (STF 719)

A Charge to Keep I Have (STF 658)

Make Us your Prophets Lord (STF 665)

[Our Calling](#)



Sunday 29 October

A Justice-Seeking Church
values every
human being

Year A, Ordinary 30

God made human beings in the image of God, each worthy of equal value and dignity. The search for justice entails treating others with respect and may involve reclaiming lost worth.

Walking with Micah Report to Conference 2023

Lectionary Readings

Deut 34: 1-12
Death of Moses

Lev 19: 1-2, 15-18
Deal justly and fairly
Love neighbours as self

Psalms 90: 1-6, 13 – 17
Call for repentance

Psalms 1
The righteous prosper

1 Thes 2: 1-8
Faithful despite persecution
Giving of very selves to others

Matthew 22: 34- 46
Love God and love neighbour

Possible Approaches

God instructed Moses to speak against impartiality, injustice and exploitation (**Lev 19**). The call to love our neighbour as we love ourselves (**Lev 19, Matt 22**) is a challenge to break down barriers between “us” and “them.” We are called to share our very selves with others for the sake of the Gospel (**1 Thes**).

Racism and inequality are contrary to God’s Kingdom.

Priority for Justice: Opposing Discrimination (All are Made in the Image of God)

The ministry highlight for this week can include raising awareness about **One Lichfield**. Relevant “practices for justice” include: being with not for; humility in community; self-awareness and power; relationship building

Worship Resources

SONGS:

Make Me a Channel of Your Peace (STF 707)
Put Peace into Each Other’s hands (STF 712)
We Do Not Hope to Ease Our Minds (STF 717)
We Turn to You, O God of Every Nation (STF 720)
Let Love Be Real in Giving and Receiving (STF 615)
Everyone Needs Compassion (STF 627)
Lord, We Come to Ask Your Healing (STF 652)
In Christ There is No East or West (STF 685)



Sunday 5 November

A Justice-Seeking Church
enables all to flourish

Year A, Ordinary 31

God desires the flourishing of creation and human community within it. The search for justice does not diminish or limit the flourishing of others but seeks to enable it.

Walking with Micah Report to Conference 2023

Lectionary Readings

Joshua 3: 7-17

Carrying the ark across Jordan

Micah 3: 5-12

*Judgement for those who
falsely prophesy peace*

Psalm 107: 1-7, 33-37

The desert made fertile

Psalm 43:

God rescuing from injustice

1 Thes 2: 9-13

“So that we might not burden you”

Matt 23: 1-12

“They tie up heavy burdens”

Possible Approaches

The Psalm presents a vision of flourishing for creation and communities, with deserts becoming springs (**Ps 107**). God makes a way for people to cross over from wilderness to promised land (**Jos 3**). We should not be complacent with false declarations of peace whilst injustice prevents human flourishing (**Mic 3**). Our churches should function to enable flourishing and not burden people (**1 Thes, Mt 23**)

Priority for Justice: Enabling a flourishing environment (Right relationship between people, planet and God)

The ministry highlight for this week can include raising awareness about the **Food Bank**. Relevant “practices for justice” include: being with not for; responding to need, relationship building

Worship Resources

SONGS:

For the Healing of the Nations (STF 696)

God of Justice, Saviour to All (STF 699)

In Labour All Creation Groans (STF 704)

The God Who Sings (STF 714)

As the Glory of Creation (STF 725)

God in his Love For Us Lent Us This Planet (STF 727)

Touch the Earth Lightly (STF 729)

One Human Family God Has Made (STF 687)

The Kingdom of God is Justice and Joy (STF 255)



Sunday 12 November

A Justice-Seeking Church
hopes for
transformation

Year A, Ordinary 32

God calls us to live in hope and in ways that reflect God's character and pattern of God's kingdom. Thus, seeking justice involves honesty and truth, and may demand protest and resistance, restitution, forgiveness, reconciliation and ultimately, transformation
Walking with Micah Report to Conference 2023

Lectionary Readings

Joshua 24: 1-3a, 14-25
Choose whom you will serve

Amos 5: 18-24
Justice and righteousness

Psalms 78: 1-7
"Set their hope in God"

Psalms 70:
Plea for rescue, rejoicing

1 Thes 4: 13-18
Death is not the end

Matthew 25: 1-13
Parable of Bridesmaids (alert)

Possible Approaches

Patterns of war and violence repeat themselves in history. **Remembrance Sunday** is an opportunity to remain alert rather than complacent (**Matt 25**), pointing to the signs of God's Kingdom when evil threatens to overcome. When the ways of this world are opposed to God's transformative justice, our choice is to serve God (**Jos 24**). We work toward peace and transformation when we stand for justice and mercy (**Amo 5**). – this includes the unjust ways of the world. We share our hope in the vision of God's justice with future generations (**Psa 78**).

Priority for Justice: Pursuing Peace: Seeking Justice and Reconciliation

The ministry highlight for this week is **Remembrance Sunday**. Relevant "practices for justice" include: prayer; visibility and transformation; changing rules or practices; creative or symbolic acts; visible activism

Worship Resources

SONGS:

Oh Freedom, Oh Freedom (STF 697)
God! As with Silent Hearts (STF 698)
Longing for Light (STF 706)
O, God of Hope, Your Prophets Spoke (STF 708)
We Lay Our Broken World (STF 718)
We Pray for Peace (STF 719)
What Shall We Pray for Those Who Died (STF 721)
God of Grace and God of Glory (STF 682)
Where Mountains That We Thought Secure (STF 722)



Sunday 19 November

A Justice-Seeking Church
helps everyone
to do their part

Year A, Ordinary 33

God calls all people and nations actively to work for peace and justice, liberation and transformation. It is never just someone else's responsibility. We all have a part to play.

Walking with Micah Report to Conference 2023

Lectionary Readings

Judges 4: 1-7

Deborah helps against Sisera

Zephaniah 1: 7, 12-18

Judgement against the complacent

Psalm 123:

Rescue from contempt

Psalm 90: 1-8, 9-11, 12:

Human being short-lived

1 Thes 5: 1-11

A thief in night - stay alert

Matthew 25: 14-30

Parable of the talents

Possible Approaches

God often uses unlikely candidates to fulfil justice e.g. a woman's action brings military victory in a patriarchal society (**Judges 4**). God has given all of us resources; we should not bury them but use them for God's purposes (**Mt 25**). Christ is coming and we are called to be alert (**1 Thes 1**); we are not to be complacent (**Zeph 1**).

Worship Resources

SONGS:

All Praise to Our Redeeming Lord (STF 608)

Have You Heard God's Voice (STF 662)

Called by Christ to Be Disciples (STF 660)

I The Lord of Sea and Sky (STF 663)

Brother, Sister, Let Me Serve You (STF 611)

Come, All Who Look To Christ Today (STF 678)

Come, Build the Church (STF 679)

Community of Christ (STF 681)

The Church's One Foundation (STF 690)

Summoned by the God Who Made Us (STF 689)

Sent by the Lord am I (STF 239)

Hear the Call of the Kingdom (STF 407)

May the God of Hope Go With Us Every Day (STF 411)



“A justice-seeking Church: the report of the Walking with Micah project”
<https://www.methodist.org.uk/media/29385/conf-23-pc-12-walking-with-micah-project.pdf>

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