

Come and Eat

Peacemaking through food justice

Peace Sunday 2019 Devotional Guide

Use this as a guide for prayer and reflection during the week leading up to Peace Sunday. God bless!

SUNDAY / Ezekiel 34:17-31

REFLECT: In light of our current environmental problems, how do you interpret the prophet's objection to those who "tread on pasture" and "foul clear water?" Can you see evidence in today's world of God's covenant of peace and the blessing of splendid vegetation spoken of in the passage? Do you feel secure on your soil? Secure in your food supply?

PRAY: Lord God, thank you for this scripture of challenge and assurance. Your prophetic words make me think about today's world, where so many people do not live in peace, and where so much of your creation is suffering. I lift up my concerns and my worries to you. Please bless me with good questions that will prod me even deeper into your peacemaking work. Amen.

MONDAY / Isaiah 32:16-18

REFLECT: What would "justice dwelling in the wilderness" mean in today's world? In what ways does our food system contribute to "peaceful and secure dwellings?" How do we join in this peace and justice work that God is doing among us?

PRAY: Most Holy God, you are the source of true security and justice in our world. Help me this week to make the connection between food and peacemaking. Help me to feel secure even while I explore some complex issues and questions. I put my trust in you. Amen.

TUESDAY / James 3:18

REFLECT: What kinds of harvests do your meals represent today? Where did your food come from? What are some examples of foods that represent a harvest of justice in terms of how the growing of particular food items contributes to justice and peace?

PRAY: Holy Spirit, you sow seeds of justice and righteousness in me. Please bring these seeds to fruition so that I can see how the food I eat affects other people and the earth itself. Give me the strength to work toward a harvest of peace. Amen.

WEDNESDAY / Matthew 6:9-13

REFLECT: How do you understand God's will when it comes to making food choices? What would Jesus do when faced with the decision of buying organic food versus non-organic food? What does the phrase "your kingdom come" mean when you think about an ideal food system that promotes peace and justice?

PRAY: Lord Jesus Christ, you teach me to pray for God's will to be done on earth. You teach me to walk in the way of peace. Now I am faced with this challenge of connecting these things you have taught with the food that I eat. Walk with me, I pray, as I explore these connections with my church and with my friends and family. Amen.

THURSDAY / Romans 14:19-21

REFLECT: While the context of this passage is quite different than our own, how do you hear God speaking to you through this scripture passage? What does it mean for us in 2019 to work for justice and "mutual upbuilding" through the food choices we make? On the other hand, how do we make others "fall" by what we eat?

PRAY: I try to work for your kingdom of peace as much as I can, O God. I try to build up your church with my everyday decisions. Here your words seem to challenge me to not create injustice or other problems because of what I eat. What does this mean for my life?

Help me to be open to your Spirit and to work with others in order to understand your Living Word.

Amen.

FRIDAY / John 6:25-29

REFLECT: How do you make the connection between Jesus as "bread of life" and the Israelite experience of receiving manna from heaven (Exodus 16)? Is there a certain kind of eating experience that satisfies your hunger for justice and peace?

PRAY: Jesus Christ, Prince of Peace, you are the bread of life. Especially for this justice journey, I need your spiritual nourishment just as much as I need the physical nourishment of food. Stay close to me and help me to stay focused on you. Help me to see you in the work of bringing about peace with justice in the way we grow and eat our food. Amen.

SATURDAY / Psalm 104:14-15

REFLECT: How does your experience of food resonate with the imagery in this passage? How do you think our society's view of food might change if we truly recognized God's role in "bringing forth food"? How would you describe the physical and spiritual strength that you gain from food?

PRAY: Thank you, God, for your creation. You show your love and your justice in the way that you relate to your creation, and I seek to follow in your way. How can I make choices about food in a way that furthers your work of caring for creation? Bring inspiration and joy into this work, I pray. Amen.

