

ADVENT REFLECTION WEEK FOUR: Candle of Joy

By the Rev. Jim Boler, Associate Pastor Sanibel Island UCC and Board Member of Interfaith Action

"See, I am bringing you good news of a great joy for all the people." (Luke 2:10)

While in the fields, Shepherds are terrified by the light of an angel. And then they hear the voice say, "Don't be afraid. The good, joyful news is for all the people." Joy to the world!

Cesar Chavez said, "Jesus' life and words are a challenge at the same time that they are Good News. They are a challenge to those of us who are poor and oppressed. By His life He is calling us to give ourselves to the other, to sacrifice for those who suffer, to share our lives with our brothers and sisters who are also oppressed. He is calling us to 'hunger and thirst after justice' in the same way that we hunger and thirst after food and water: that is, by putting our yearning into practice."

The Coalition of Immokalee Workers is putting the yearning for justice into practice and inviting our support.

We pray, God, for your help in tearing down the borders we have built around our own hearts, that we may see you in each person, and that we may learn to love and welcome each of your children as members of one people, one world, one God.

CHRISTMAS REFLECTION: Where Justice Puts Forth Roots, The Christ Candle

A song for our partnership work with the CIW by the Rev. Noelle Damico, Associate for Fair Food, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Donde la verdad y la paz viven;
Donde la gente se apoyan;
Donde la justicia toma la raiz,
Cristo nace, Cristo nace, Cristo nace alli.

Where truth and peace live;
Where people support one another;
Where justice puts forth roots;
Christ is born, Christ is born, There Christ is born.