

“A stranger and you invited me in . . .”

Affordable Housing Sunday service

Call to Worship: (From Psalm 23, 26, 27, and 84)

ONE: How lovely is your dwelling place, O LORD Almighty!

MANY: I love the house where you live, O LORD, the place where your glory dwells.

ONE: Even the sparrow has found a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may have her young—

MANY: . . . a place near your altar, O LORD Almighty, my King and my God.

ONE: My soul yearns, even faints, for the courts of the LORD; my heart and my flesh cry out for the living God.

MANY: Blessed are those who dwell in your house; they are ever praising you.

ONE: One thing I ask of the LORD, this is what I seek . . .

MANY: . . . that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to seek him in his temple.

ALL: Surely goodness and mercy will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

The Presbyterian Church (USA) Washington Office has developed an educational advocacy resource on affordable housing issues. “A Stranger and You Invited Me In: Affordable Housing Advocacy for Presbyterians” includes information on government housing programs and simple advocacy suggestions and features ways that Presbyterian congregations are involved in affordable housing advocacy and higher minimum wage campaigns.

“A Stranger and You Invited Me In: Affordable Housing Advocacy for Presbyterians” can be accessed on the Washington Office’s website at <http://www.pcusa.org/washington/housingadvocacy.htm>.

“A stranger and you invited me in . . .”

Affordable Housing Sunday service

Call to Worship: (From Psalm 23, 26, 27, and 84)

ONE: How lovely is your dwelling place, O LORD Almighty!

MANY: I love the house where you live, O LORD, the place where your glory dwells.

ONE: Even the sparrow has found a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may have her young—

MANY: . . . a place near your altar, O LORD Almighty, my King and my God.

ONE: My soul yearns, even faints, for the courts of the LORD; my heart and my flesh cry out for the living God.

MANY: Blessed are those who dwell in your house; they are ever praising you.

ONE: One thing I ask of the LORD, this is what I seek . . .

MANY: . . . that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to seek him in his temple.

ALL: Surely goodness and mercy will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

The Presbyterian Church (USA) Washington Office has developed an educational advocacy resource on affordable housing issues. “A Stranger and You Invited Me In: Affordable Housing Advocacy for Presbyterians” includes information on government housing programs and simple advocacy suggestions and features ways that Presbyterian congregations are involved in affordable housing advocacy and higher minimum wage campaigns.

“A Stranger and You Invited Me In: Affordable Housing Advocacy for Presbyterians” can be accessed on the Washington Office’s website at <http://www.pcusa.org/washington/housingadvocacy.htm>.

Litany on affordable housing:

ALL: Lord, when did we see you homeless?

ONE: Each year in the United States, three and a half million people live in shelters or on the streets.

MANY: Over one million of these are children living in homelessness whose families are struggling to survive.

ONE: Lord, when did we see you with insufficient wages?

MANY: A person with two children has to earn over fifteen dollars an hour in order to afford housing in this country.

ONE: A person working full-time at minimum wage lives five thousand dollars below the poverty line for a family of three.

MANY: Lord, when did we see you in need of housing?

ONE: Many families on the waiting lists for Section 8 rental assistance vouchers must wait for years before receiving housing.

MANY: Almost fifteen million U.S. households pay over seventy percent of their incomes on housing.

ONE: Lord, when did we see you homeless?

MANY: Jesus replied, “Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head.”

ONE: Is this not the fast which I choose to let the oppressed go free and break every yoke? (Isaiah 58:6)

MANY: Is it not to divide your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into the house...

ONE: ...when you see the naked, to cover them; and not to hide yourself from your own kin? (Isaiah 58:7)

ALL: But let justice roll down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream. (Amos 5:24)

Call to Worship and Litany by Erin Hoekstra, Bill Emerson National Hunger Fellow at the PC(USA) Washington Office

Litany on affordable housing:

ALL: Lord, when did we see you homeless?

ONE: Each year in the United States, three and a half million people live in shelters or on the streets.

MANY: Over one million of these are children living in homelessness whose families are struggling to survive.

ONE: Lord, when did we see you with insufficient wages?

MANY: A person with two children has to earn over fifteen dollars an hour in order to afford housing in this country.

ONE: A person working full-time at minimum wage lives five thousand dollars below the poverty line for a family of three.

MANY: Lord, when did we see you in need of housing?

ONE: Many families on the waiting lists for Section 8 rental assistance vouchers must wait for years before receiving housing.

MANY: Almost fifteen million U.S. households pay over seventy percent of their incomes on housing.

ONE: Lord, when did we see you homeless?

MANY: Jesus replied, “Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head.”

ONE: Is this not the fast which I choose to let the oppressed go free and break every yoke? (Isaiah 58:6)

MANY: Is it not to divide your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into the house...

ONE: ...when you see the naked, to cover them; and not to hide yourself from your own kin? (Isaiah 58:7)

ALL: But let justice roll down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream. (Amos 5:24)

Call to Worship and Litany by Erin Hoekstra, Bill Emerson National Hunger Fellow at the PC(USA) Washington Office