

October 23, 2022

A Call to Spiritual Consciousness – Responsive Reading

Old Testament: Ps. 89:14, 140:12, 146:5-7; Isa. 56:1, 59:14, 61:8; Am. 5:21-24; Mic. 6:8

Righteousness and justice are the foundations of your throne; steadfast love and faithfulness go before you. I know that the Lord maintains the cause of the needy and executes justice for the poor.

Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord their God, who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them.

Who keeps faith forever; who executes justice for the oppressed; who gives food to the hungry.

Thus says the Lord: Maintain justice, and do what is right, for soon my salvation will come, and my deliverance be revealed.

Justice is turned back, and righteousness stands at a distance; for truth stumbles in the public square, and uprightness cannot enter.

For I the Lord love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.

I hate, I despise your festivals, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies. Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings,

I will not accept them; and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals I will not look upon.

Take away from me the noise of your songs; I will not listen to the melody of your harps. But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

He has told you, O Mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

-taken from the African American Heritage Hymnal

October 30, 2022

A Call to Spiritual Consciousness – Responsive Reading

New Testament: Lk. 18:7-8, 11:42; Mt. 12:18-21; Rom. 1:16-17, 8:31-33

And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them? I tell you he will quickly grant justice to them.

And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?

But woe to you Pharisees! For you tithe mint and rue and herbs of all kinds, and neglect justice and the love of God; it is these you ought to have practiced, without neglecting the others.

Here is my servant, whom I have chosen, my beloved, with whom my soul is well pleased. I will put my Spirit upon him, and he will proclaim justice to the Gentiles.

He will not wrangle or cry aloud, nor will anyone hear his voice in the streets.

He will not break a bruised reed or quench a smoldering wick until he brings justice to victory. And in his name the Gentiles will hope.

For I am not ashamed of the gospel; it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who has faith, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

For in it the righteousness of God is revealed through faith for faith; as it is written, “The one who is righteous will live by faith.”

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else?

Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies.

-taken from the African American Heritage Hymnal