3. Worship

Liturgical resources for Jubilee Sunday

Jubilee Sunday May 19th 2013

Feast of Pentecost *"Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth."*

Notes:

- This year Jubilee Sunday falls on the Feast of Pentecost.
- The Readings are for Pentecost from the Common Lectionary.
- Brief homily notes are included for reflection on Pentecost and the Jubilee principle.
- There is a Candle Ceremony at the beginning of the liturgy which requires simple preparation.
- Place in a central place a globe of the world with five candles arranged around it: three red and two yellow.
- Have the responses for the Candle Ceremony displayed for the congregation.
- You are encouraged to use music that is appropriate to the theme and well-known.

Introduction

Today is the Feast of Pentecost. It is also Jubilee Sunday. We gather as a faith community in the Great Southern Land of the Holy Spirit on the traditional country of the (insert the name of the local Aboriginal people), giving thanks for the presence of God's Spirit in the world. It is God's Spirit who empowers us to love as Jesus loves, to bring peace and justice for all peoples and the earth as we work for the Reign of God.

Candle Ceremony

✴ **Light Candle One (Red)**

(Celebrant) Today we are using the colours of red for solidarity and yellow for liberation as well as the symbol of the global world and its peoples to invoke the Holy Spirit.

✴ **Light Candle Two (Red)**:

As a local community which is part of the global community, we wait together in hope for a world made new where all peoples will be able to live in dignity and peace.

Response: Send forth your Spirit of hope.

✴ **Light Candle Three (Yellow)**

"Unrolling the scroll he found the place where it is written: *The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for he has anointed me."*

Response: Send forth your Spirit of love and compassion.

✴ **Light Candle Four (Yellow)**

"*He has sent me to bring the good news to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives and to the blind new sight, to set the downtrodden free, to proclaim the Lord's year of favour."*

Response: Send forth your Spirit of justice and mercy.

✴ **Light Candle Five (Red)**

"Then he began to speak to them. *"This text is being fulfilled today even as you listen."*

Response: Send forth your Spirit of courage and strength.

Song/Hymn

Homily Notes.

Scripture points to connect with:

1. *"When the time for Pentecost was fulfilled, they were all in one place together"* – the global world, solidarity.

2. "*They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in different tongues, as the Spirit enabled them to proclaim*" – hearing Jesus' message, communication.

3. "*To each individual the manifestation of the Spirit is given for some benefit" –* action for justice is not an option, it's our responsibility.

4. "*If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you always.* – we need the Spirit to be with us in our living this out.

The Jubilee Principle

Based on Old Testament scripture, the ancient Hebrew traditions of Sabbath rest and Jubilee renewal required that those enslaved as a result of debt be freed, lands lost because of debt be returned and communities torn by inequality be restored.

The scriptures tell us that the Spirit of God has called us to be good news to the poor, to forgive each other's debts, to heal the broken, to announce freedom to those who are imprisoned by suffering, to proclaim the Jubilee (Isaiah 61:1-2).

In Luke's Gospel, Jesus gave the ancient Law of Jubilee new meaning when he invoked it at the beginning of his mission (Luke: 4:19), when he read from the scroll, "He has sent me to bring the good news to the poor... to set the downtrodden free, to proclaim the Year of the Lord's Favour."

As Christians, we are challenged to join the struggle to break the chains that bind our global brothers and sisters, preventing them from realising full and dignified lives.

How do we apply the essence of the Jubilee principle in today's complex and globally connected world?

The causes of poverty and inequality in our world are complex. Living the Jubilee Principle today means understanding that poverty is not simply about lack of money, and that charity alone will not bring it to an end. Our approach to helping the poor must have two facets: a focus on the actual conditions of those in poverty, and a corresponding focus on the systems, laws and policies that make and keep people poor.

Prayers of the Faithful (Bidding Prayers)

(Celebrant) God of all, you created us in your image and call on us to serve you and do your will on Earth.

Response: Send forth your Spirit and renew the face of the earth.

1. We give thanks for your gifts of the rich diversity of life which is to be available to all.
2. We pray for church and world leaders that they will be inspired by your Spirit to act to change a global system which is creating an increasing gap between the rich and the poor.
3. We pray for the global family of peoples. We are all connected in some way. Help us to show the same solidarity with our brothers and sisters far away as we do with those close to us.
4. We pray for all those who are suffering through no fault of their own under the weight of poverty caused by economic injustice and for all those who seek just economic relationships.
5. We pray that we too will have the strength to work towards a world that reflects the love, mercy and justice of Jesus. Give us courage to lay down our lives for justice for it is only by freedom from debt and poverty that we can begin to fulfil your commandment to love one another.

(Celebrant) Compassionate God, help us to embrace the love we receive from you, that comes to us through the most unlikely of the people in the most unlikely of places. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.)

(After Communion) Announcement

Jubilee Australia is a small, dynamic organisation formed at the turn of the millennium when 24 million people signed a petition calling for 'Third World' Debts to be cancelled by the year 2000. This is what Pope John Paul II called for. In response to the Jubilee 2000 campaign, around $125 billion of debt was cancelled, and governments were able to start spending money in ways that benefited their people.

But the 'Jubilee' idea goes beyond cancelling some debt. Jubilee Australia is still working because of its belief that the global economy has been structured in a way that is deeply unfair, worsening poverty and inequality in many parts of the world. Over the long term, our efforts have to change the economic rules of engagement if less-developed countries and communities are to do anything more than struggle against the tide.

Today, Jubilee Australia collaborates with groups in 50 other countries that are working against greed and inequity, and towards a global economy that is fair, sustainable, and protects the most vulnerable from exploitation.

This is something that faith communities can and should take action on.

Final Blessing

God of all, give us the strength and the desire to minister to those who struggle to live under oppressive conditions. Allow us to see your presence in our lives and in the lives of others. Breathe the fire of your love into our hearts. Amen.

Prepared by the Columban Mission Institute Centre for Peace, Ecology and Justice.
For Debt prayer bookmarks, please contact Anne Lanyon 02 9352 8021 or pej.cmi@columban.org.au