

## **Transforming Hearts Through Drama and Art: A Bible Study Model**

This model has been designed to use drama and the arts to enhance small group bible study, and to challenge people of faith to do justice in their daily lives and wider community. Participants will be invited and challenged to move into a deeper understanding our Christian faith and God's call to do justice in our world.

Recommended group size 4-12 people (Larger groups significantly reduce the amount of sharing time for each participant.)

The facilitator(s) serve as non-judgmental leaders, inviting group members to share their thoughts and feelings in an atmosphere that encourages risk taking and minimizes criticism. Creating a comfortable space in which all participants are invited to share openly without fear of judgment is the facilitator's most important responsibility in the group.

Ask members to make a commitment to attend each session even if you are only having 2-4 sessions. Tell the participants that this program requires time spent outside the group for individual spiritual reflection. Group members will be invited to discuss their reflections and share the art they create during their spiritual reflection time. The creative work will be as diverse as members of the group and may include prayers, poems, short stories, quilt squares, paintings, drawings, batches of cookies, photographs or anything else that has been a part of the creator's spiritual journey that week. Every idea is welcome and encouraged. People meet the sacred and holy in miraculous ways.

### **Resources for the Bible Study**

Contemporary dramas created by members of the Just Peace Players provide the dramatic emphasis for each week of bible study. The program can last for as many weeks as desired. The facilitator will need to choose a drama and a scripture text for each week. See the Resource List at the end of the curriculum for additional information.

### **Weekly Bible Study Guide** (suggested time 1 hour)

10 min. including the prayer

**Welcome!** Ask folks to share their names and years they have been members of the church. Then ask "If you could choose any place people live, where would it be and why?" (Think of a new question for each week such as: Who is your favorite person in the Bible? What is your favorite food? What movie made you cry? How many homes have you lived in during your life? Do you have an animal friend in your life?)

**Opening Prayer** Holy God, we know that wherever two or more are gathered in your name you are with us in a special way. Fill us with your spirit of love and passion for justice as we seek to discern your call in our lives. Amen

15 min.

**Facilitator reviews the purpose and time commitments of the group and asks members:** At the first meeting ask: Why did you come to this group today? What interests you when you think about the connections between spirituality, homelessness and doing justice in the world? What would you like to get out of the time we have together? **It is very important to ask the following questions to help everyone feel comfortable in the group.** What helps you feel comfortable in a group? What makes you feel uncomfortable in a group? How can we make the group feel like reasonably safe space for everyone? **Feel free to ask additional questions.** During the following weeks use this time for group members to share their reflections from the previous week.

5 min.

**Drama and or Scripture Reading** Before the group begins the facilitators should choose drama and scripture from the resources and select a text. The facilitator can either pass out copies of the drama to willing readers, or have prepared readers in advance.

20 min.

**Talking about the drama and scripture** (Feel free to ask additional questions or to omit some of these.) What did you like about the drama/text and why? Did it make you uncomfortable? Why? In what ways did the drama help you understand the scripture text and vice versa? Where did you experience the sacred and the holy? How do these texts touch your story? Whose voices did you hear? Whose were left out? What voices would you like to add? How can we act together to do justice in the world, especially in relation to homelessness?

10 minutes through the prayer

**Questions for Individual Spiritual Reflection** Where do you experience a sense of home? Have you ever felt or been homeless? What helps you feel safe, warm and loved? When do you feel alone or estranged from other people? What kinds of power and privilege do you have in your life? When and how do you feel less powerful? How do you experience the sacred and holy in your life and how can you share the experience with the world? What resources do you-do we as a gathered community-have to share with our neighbors and the world? How is God calling us to work for justice in the world? Ask a different question each week and invite the group to suggest questions. Encourage people to journal, paint, write prayers, poetry, songs, or do any kind of visual art during the week as they reflect on the drama, texts and questions. Ask them to bring their creation to share at the next group.

**Housekeeping** Pick reader/actors and give them next week's texts and drama and distribute the question or questions for the individual spiritual reflection time.

**Closing Prayer** I suggest that the group join hands and have an open prayer time. When it is time to close, that facilitator can say something like "Go in peace, to serve God and serve God's people. Amen"

## **Suggested Texts**

Genesis 21:9-21

Deuteronomy 15:1-17 “If there is among you a poor person...”

Deuteronomy 10:18-19

Exodus 23: 9

Psalm 23

Isaiah 58-6-11

Jeremiah 29:5-7

Micah 6:8b “What does our God require of us...”

Micah 4:1-5 “Each person shall have their own vine and fig tree...”

Matthew 25:35-40 “What you do unto the least of my sisters and brothers...”

Luke 4:18 “The Spirit of God is upon me...”

Luke 1:46-55 The Magnificat

Luke 6:20-38 The Beatitudes

Luke 10:23-31 The Parable of the Good Samaritan

Acts 2:44-45

## **Resources**

This model of small group bible study has been informed by the **See, Judge, Act** curriculum developed by the United Church of Christ, the feminist liberation theology model of bible study created by the Rev. Allison Cheek, D. Min. and taught at the Episcopal Divinity School in Cambridge, MA, and the Rev. Dr. Katie Cannon’s Dance of Redemption.

## **FAITH INTO ACTION TOGETHER (F.I.A.T.)**

F.I.A.T. has a two part faith based action/reflection model for churches with is available by contacting their office. (Sr. Linda Bessom, SND)

## Liturgical Drama Selections

These original dramas, stories, poems and prayers were created by the Just Peace Players or contributed by members of the MACUCC Task Force to End Homelessness. Use a new selection each week. You may or may not choose a work that is directly related to the Scripture text you are using. The dramas are intended to move the group deeper into conversation about the connections between our faith, homelessness and acting for justice in the world.

### **An hour and a half in line...**

The Just Peace Players

Monologue

An hour and a half in line!

I can't think about the time.  
With 30 or 40 people up ahead  
When I get there will they still have any bread?  
I can do without it, but I got kids that must be fed.

We beggars can't be choosers  
So patiently we losers  
in life's game of rich and poor  
wait to see if anything's left in store.

If there is we feel lucky  
just to see the shelves aren't bare  
but find ourselves getting angry  
when we see what's resting there.

Sauerkraut? Powdered eggs?  
My kids won't eat that stuff.  
I guess you think we'll eat anything  
if we're only hungry enough.

Maybe that's true, you're probably right.  
I'm even willing to get in a fight  
To protect my place in line  
and to defend  
my right to waste my time  
the only thing I've got to spend.

## When we saw you!

The Just Peace Players

**Two, four, or six actors may perform depending on how you divide the parts.**

### **Matthew 25 35-42. (edited)**

*1: Then Jesus said: I was hungry and you gave me food, and I was thirsty and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you took me in; naked you clothed me, I was sick, and you helped me; I was in prison and you visited me.*

*2: Jesus, when did we see you hungry and feed you, of thirsty and gave you drink? When did we see you as a stranger and take you in, or naked and clothed you?*

*1: That which you have done unto the least among you, you have done unto me.*

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(Two young people talking. May be holding soft drinks or school books.)

1: Hey... I just had a wild experience! I met Jesus!

2: What? Are you high or something? (sounds skeptical)

1: No, no I mean it. I went with our church to worship at Ecclesia Ministry, you know the common cathedral, and helped the homeless on Boston Common, and there he was.

2: Right there? Whoa!!!

1: Yeah, I was giving out sandwiches and I mean it was like a holy thing...the scripture we heard last week sort of came true...I was serving sandwiches and this guy touched my hand and thanked me. He said his name was Mike and that this was his only meal of the day. Then he asked my name. Suddenly I knew it was like I was helping Jesus!

2: That blows my mind!

1: Come with us and try it next month!

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(Two people holding bags talking outside a store.)

1: Hi Jay, you look like you've seen a ghost.

2: I think I have...maybe...

1: What???

2: Well, our church works with Boston City Mission Society to help support a woman who was just released from prison...you know welcomes her to church and helps her get back into the community. Today I drove her to apply for welfare, and it was, well it was indescribable...

1: Yeah...

2: Well she told me how she wants to get her kids back. She needs to move out of the shelter and find a nice place to live with them. She needs well paying work so that she isn't tempted to go into prostitution again. She began to cry while she was telling me how much she had missed them while she was in prison. I began to think about how much I missed my mother and we both cried! Then we held hands and prayed and I went into the welfare office with her. I helped with the forms and stuff. I think it made a difference that I was there.

1: I can't believe you went in with her...the welfare office...what would the neighbors think if they saw you?

2: I don't care...and you know what? I'm going to sign up for that Faith Into Action program that teaches people to be advocates for people on welfare. It really felt like sacred work to me. Somehow I seemed closer to Jesus there than I have in our church for a long time.

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(Two people on a subway. Could be holding briefcases)

1: I'm exhausted!

2: But you're glowing!

1: Yeah, I had a great time. I met five legislators and told them all that I supported the right for gay and lesbian people to marry! I told them that changing the Constitution was wrong and that I wouldn't vote for them if they voted to do it.

1: Wow! What happened?

2: Well, three were already on my side and thanked me for my support. One was on the fence and said it was good to hear from constituents on all sides of the issue, and one refused to see me, because he had already made up his mind and wouldn't change it. I left literature there!

1: So...

2: When I came out of his office, three people from Open and Affirming churches in the United Church of Christ thanked me for helping! They said we all need to speak up for justice and to witness to God's love. They invited me to lunch, and sandwiches and juice never tasted so good. Like communion...but without the little dry squares! I'm going back tomorrow to see who else I can talk to...after all Jesus met people one at a time!

1: I never thought of lobbying as sacred work! I think I'll go with you.

## **Stories from the Metro-West Outreach Coalition**

Len Dalton, Plymouth Church in Framingham

Plymouth Church supports an active ministry with the individuals and families who are assigned to live in motels in the Metro-West area. Most of the people they serve are families with children, doing the best they can to survive in motel rooms. The rooms usually do not have microwaves or refrigerators. Families welcome the hot meal, friendship and non-judgmental support that people from Plymouth Church provide.

### **Resurrection**

Plymouth Church held an Easter party in 2002 for the children of the church. We were going to have food, games and an egg hunt. We decided to invite the families from Motel 6 to this party and three families accepted. We picked up the families and brought them to the church. When we arrived at the church, one of the mothers from the motel said, "This is the first time in four months that my family has been out of the motel for an event like this."

There was initially some hesitation on the part of the children from the motel to join in the activities with the other children. But after a few minutes they joined in and had a great time. There was no difference between anyone and the families were able to feel at home and relaxed. They children from the motel had a great time doing the activities and really enjoyed the egg hunt.

On the trip back to the motel, every family thanked us for inviting them.

### **Just like you and me.**

The concept people often have of what constitutes a homeless family is frequently far from reality. In August of 2002, I met a family who had just arrived at Motel 6 without any food or money. I brought some non-perishable food for them. The normal process at the motel is to call the room and tell them that we have food for them and they come down to the lobby area. When the elevator door opened, out stepped an elderly man. I did not want to presume that he belonged to the homeless family since I knew that there were 2 children in listing that I had. I did not want to make a mistake of approaching a "paying" guest.

He came over to me and asked if I had called his room which got me out of my dilemma. As we talked about the situation that he found himself in, he told me that he and his wife had adopted their two grandchildren. The grandparents were not able to retain their apartment and were forced to become homeless. He searched from Cape Cod to Connecticut for an affordable place to live, but was unsuccessful even with a voucher. He takes the youngest child back to school in his home town every day.

This man was more fortunate than most families. As grandparents bringing up children, they received a higher priority in getting into a more permanent shelter close to their town. Even with this advantage, the family was in the motel for a month.

### **Merry Christmas**

The last story is about this past Christmas season. The Metro West Daily News had done an article about the homeless families housed in the local motels. As a result of the article, I received a number of calls from people who wanted to offer their help in any way they could. Four women, individually, provided food, new clothes, presents, laundry money, telephone calling cards and various gift cards. I was overwhelmed by the response and the goodness of people.

The Christmas Eve party with Santa at the motel. Attending this party was a great gift to my wife and me. The families were so happy and thrilled with the presents that they received. The 10 year girl really reached us when she said to her mother, "Mom, we have received so many nice gifts, you won't have to spend any money on gifts for us." What more can I say.

### **Thanks and Praise**

"To the Congregation of Plymouth Church" (the letter read)

I am a 19 year mother of an incredible little boy who is almost 2. It is Christmas Eve, my first away from home. This year is very different, the Lord has chosen for my place to be at a temporary homeless shelter in Framingham.

While I will always have my family to keep me going, I have a family of my own now and sometimes it is hard for me to keep going. But this afternoon I went downstairs to the Motel 6 lobby (where I now live) and I was given a gift from your church.

It is sad and sometimes scary to be away from your family especially at this time of the year. But it brings joyful tears to my eyes and warms my heart that there is a family so close to me and thinking of all of you makes it a little less scary.

Thank you with all my heart. I hope to soon visit your church. I know this is the sign I have been asking the Lord to show me to bring me back to Him.

Thank you again. God bless all of you! I know and feel now that He has blessed me.

With the strength of God,

Jennifer (the Mom) and Darshan (age 2)

## **A Litany of Hope based on Isaiah 25:6-9**

Fran Bogle, MBA Just Peace Coordinator

**The worship leader divides the congregation into the left and the right and narrates the litany.**

Narrator: On this mountain the God of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear.

**Left: Enough to eat and a home that's safe and warm.**

**Right: All the medical care my family and I need.**

**Left: A job that pays a living wage and gives me time with friends and family.**

**Right: Villages around the world with safe drinking water, healthy farm animals, schools and a way to market their produce.**

**All: Surely this is what the mountain of God will be like!**

Narrator: And God will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations; God will swallow up death forever.

**L: Racism, sexism, homophobia will become things of the past.**

**R: Poverty around the world will end. Everyone will have a home.**

**L: Children will be safe from sexual exploitation and no one will be abused anymore.**

**R: Armies and navies and weapons of mass destruction will cease to exist.**

**All: Surely this is what the mountain of God will be like!**

Narrator: Then God will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of God's people will be taken away from all the earth, for God has spoken.

**L: Children will no longer die from malnutrition and unclean drinking water. Mothers and fathers will no longer send their children to war.**

**R: The old and sick will be cared for and prisoners will have hope.**

**L: People will be able to love and live as they choose without fear.**

**R: No one will sleep in the streets or go hungry again.**

**All: Surely this is what the mountain of God will be like!**

Narrator: It will be said on that day, Lo, this is our God; for whom we have waited so that God might save us. Let us be glad and rejoice in God's salvation.

**L: Why do we have to wait? God is with us here and now.**

**R: God's power is ours if we choose to claim it.**

**L: We are God's strong back and calloused hands. We are God's muscled legs and tender heart.**

**R: We will usher in the realm of God by sharing our power in God's name.**

**All: Let us birth the mountain of God. Let the realm of God begin here and now. Amen**

## **It All Starts with One Family**

Audrey Savikas, St. Mary's Women and Children's Center

A lot can happen to a family in one short year. Few people know this better than Brenda Rosario. On December 22, 2002, Brenda and her two children moved from Puerto Rico to the United States. In the short time between then and today, they've faced challenges that many of us won't confront in an entire lifetime.

They've been homeless. They've struggled to find shelter and support without knowing the English language. They've navigated through a difficult human services system seeking the most basic education and work training skills. Still, despite all of the obstacles, Brenda says she always maintained hope that things would improve: "Everything has a purpose, everything."

Brenda didn't know it at the time, but her family was just what The Paul and Phyllis Fireman Charitable Foundation had in mind three years ago when they began sponsoring a program called One Family. Meant to "end family homelessness, one family at a time," the program links faith-based organizations and family shelters to promote family self-sufficiency and to raise public awareness about the issues of family homelessness.

According to One Family's Web site: "(The current) level of family homelessness is unacceptable, and it is solvable. ... Our extensive and direct experience bringing families home has taught us that ending family homelessness is not rocket science. It's the kitchen table work of bringing together existing resources and new partners to help all families thrive."

In Brenda's case, One Family brought together a long-standing Dorchester-based human services agency, St. Mary's Women and Children's Center, and the Old South Church.

Only a month after their move to the U.S., Brenda and her two boys, ages 6 and 5, became homeless and sought help at St. Mary's Women and Children's Center family homeless shelter program known as Margaret's House. There, they received shelter, meals, library materials, a playroom for the boys, and a wealth of support and encouragement. The boys continued going to school; Brenda enrolled in an employment training program at St. Mary's known as Women@Work. They worked on improving their English skills. They began their arduous search for an apartment. Lack of affordable housing and a decline in funding for subsidized housing means most homeless families in Boston remain in shelters close to a year before moving into an apartment, and Brenda and her family were no exception.

It was August – nine months after she came to the homeless shelter – before Brenda's opportunity for independent living materialized and she found a two-bedroom apartment starting in October. But looking back, Brenda says it was meant to be that way, because it was also at that time that St. Mary's finalized their collaboration with Old South Church for their first One Family sponsorship.

In her essay application for assistance from the Old South Church, Brenda wrote, “I have various goals to reach, but first is that my children are emotionally stable. I want them to be proud of themselves and proud of their mother. I want to teach, through my sacrifices, my efforts, and my actions that everything in life is possible as long as one travels down a good road and perseveres through difficulties.”

It was clear to St. Mary’s staff and the Old South Church volunteers that Brenda fit their criteria for selection under One Family. She was a client in good standing, working toward self-sufficiency. She consistently followed a savings plan; she was motivated and paved a clear path of continued education, training and vocational advancement. She had a clear need for external resources and support.

When Brenda was first informed of her selection, language barriers prevented her from fully understanding what she had earned. She said she knew something good was happening, but it wasn’t until her case manager translated the words of the administrators to Spanish, that she began crying tears of joy.

“It was more than just them helping me, giving me things,” she said. “It was so much more than that. It was that I knew who was doing the work behind the good people.”

Still, it would have been much more difficult for Brenda to transition to independent living without the donations from the Old South Church. Volunteers paid for her moving expenses and her phone installation. They purchased a monthly transportation pass so she could continue attending Women @ Work. They also donated essential household items like a microwave, dishes, towels and even a personal computer.

Today, when asked about the best aspect of having her own apartment, Brenda responds, “My kids feel safety now. They have a place with fewer restrictions. They have space. When they get home, they just run and run.”

Brenda acknowledges that she and her family will continue to have challenges, but this past year has taught her one important thing: “If I want to get another level higher, nothing can stop me.”

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*Brenda Rosario completed an internship at Blue Cross Blue Shield and will graduate from St. Mary’s Women@Work program on Dec. 22. She attends church regularly and has recently been invited to sing in her church choir. She is very thankful for the support and contributions from Old South Church, One Family, Inc. and St. Mary’s Women & Infants Center.*

*St. Mary’s Women and Children’s Center provides a comprehensive continuum of care to homeless families, pregnant and parenting teens, children who have been victims of abuse and neglect, and other women and children in need. St. Mary’s operates three residential programs and an education and training program.*

## Church Music...

Fran Bogle, MBA Just Peace Coordinator

Bottles and cans  
Bottles and cans  
Bottles and cans  
Rattling, reverberating  
Grating on the cement.

Unholy music on Sunday morning!  
We hear it in the narthex as she drags the big plastic bag past the entrance to our church.

For a moment the cans drown out the organ...

“Hey who left the door open?” the head usher shouts.

Bottles and cans  
Bottles and cans  
Bottles and cans  
Collected with scarred hands from dumpsters on Newbury Street.

They will buy:  
A bar of soap  
Box of Tampax  
Tube of Chapstick.

She needs five hundred more for a toothbrush and toothpaste.

Bottles and cans  
Bottles and cans  
Bottles and cans

A symphony of survival.  
I have a hunch that Jesus is playing beside her.

# **Bet On It!**

The Just Peace Players

**4 actors. All actors are on stage as the first actor begins h/her monologue.**

Rich Person: I live safely in the suburbs, away from all the problems in the city. I made my money the old fashioned way, I earned it. Went to school, learned all I could, and put myself through college. I'm proud to say I'm a self-made woman. (man) (The character can hold a brief case or additional prop)

**(Actor remains on stage and reacts/listens to a rapid-fire series of voices.)**

1: Bet English is your first language.

2: Bet you started every day off with a good breakfast.

3: Bet your parents had money to help you.

**(Voices become more challenging as the actors approach the first actor)**

1: Bet you never had a minimum wage job once you left high school.

2: Bet you didn't do it all alone! You got hired you because you fit into their club.

3: Bet you have a big stock portfolio invested in companies that try to keep the minimum wage low!

1: I live in the city with three locks on my door and bars on my windows. I work two jobs, and take classes at night. No matter how hard I try, the American dream escapes me. All I need is a chance.

2: I live in a halfway house. I've been clean and sober for 6 months, but I still can't find a job. I'll scrub floors, stock shelves, bag groceries, work as an aide in a nursing home...All I need is a chance.

3: I live in a cardboard box under a bridge. My partner and I search dumpsters and trashcans for food. Tourists take our pictures. Do you think I want to live like this? All I need is a chance!

**(Pause... then they begin to ask the person to join them as they work together)**

1: Hey, you with the power and privilege! How about leaving the suburbs and helping in our communities?

2: Don't you know that with access to schools, jobs, housing and food our lives would be different!

3: Won't you love us a little? Jesus does.

**(Actor holds out a hand to the first actor who moves to stand with the group)**

Rich Person: Together we can change the world.

ALL: Bet on it. **(Actors return to their seats.)**

## The Salem Mission, A Ministry of Crombie Street, UCC

Stephen Eagan, a resident of the shelter.

Welcome to the house of many, please obey the rules.  
A nicer shelter, there isn't any, those who say there is;  
I think they're simply fools.  
The food is so nutritious, well balanced and complete.  
There are volunteers who prepare it  
and we think they're very sweet.  
Service with a smile and seconds if you choose,  
But once again I must insist you please obey the rules.  
Those of us who live here, it's really not our choice.  
Although silent, we are judged, so I choose to be a voice:  
A voice of very many, who live inside this place.  
How can you dislike us? You've never seen our face.  
Before I ended up here I was once like you;  
Comfortable inside my home, while *homeless* were cold and blue.  
It didn't really faze me, "they choose" is what I thought.  
And now I thank God every night that I have now been taught  
To live among *the people*. I never thought I would.  
I always thought *they* were bad,  
But *we* are really very good.

# Outside Your Church

The Just Peace Players

## Monologue

I was outside your church last Sunday morning. I usually ask for change across the street by the coffee shop; the money we get from the state doesn't last the whole month. I wanted to sit and relax and get closer to God. My family was with me. We were wet and tired and wanted to get in out of the cold. Your sign said that all were welcome so we decided to take a chance and come in even though we weren't dressed in our Sunday best.

The kids seemed happy in the Sunday school. They made friends quickly and the teachers seemed very nice. One said they were going to talk about the feeding of the 5000. I wanted to say, "How about the feeding of just one family?"

The pastor was pleasant but I'm not sure about the realm of God that she kept talking about. Anything would be a "realm of God" compared to the hell on earth that I'm living in now.

People were friendly and welcoming at coffee time. No one seemed to mind that we took a couple of extra doughnuts "for the road".

It was a good morning. I felt a sense of peace for myself and the kids. But I have one question for you: Why can't you be more welcoming to the person asking for money on the street outside your church rather than waiting 'til we come in your door? Why do you keep your love and hospitality inside the building?

## Once a Month

Fran Bogle, MBA Just Peace Coordinator

### Monologue

Once a month on Sunday morning  
When I look through the faded stained glass  
I see bread and juice on the table.

My stomach growls.  
What would it be like to begin every day with breakfast?

I shake out my blanket with care.  
No roaches today.  
Folded, it fits in the Filenes shopping bag with my other treasures.

Slowly the heavy door opens...  
I can see the bread.  
Cubed, white, pita and a rice cake  
The plates are filled.

I stand and stare as my mouth waters.  
The usher asks me to move away so that others can enter.  
Why didn't she invite me in? There is lots of bread...

I sit on the steps and listen to the music,  
Letting my soul soar with the pigeons.

Soon people begin to leave.  
A few hand me a dollar or some change as they pass by.  
Most look away stirring coffee cups.

Long after the music stops the bread lady appears.  
She gives me the bag of leftover bread and tells me to "Have a good day."  
I never get the juice.

I toss the crumbs to the birds and we eat together.

This is my body, broken for you.

# **We Cry Out**

The Just Peace Players

**This piece can be read as a prayer shared as a litany, delivered as monologue or performed with several actors.**

**O God, we are:**

homeless in the richest country in the world  
homeless in the poorest country in the world  
homeless in every country in the world except Antarctica

**We cry to you in:**

Creole, Bengali, Swahili, English, French, Chinese, Spanish, Arabic, Japanese, Russian...  
and thousands of other tongues.

**We sing songs of lament and keen songs of despair. We rend our garments and wail our grief...**

And we are still homeless.

**O God...we work:**

Till we are blind from dust in the mines  
Till we are bent double hauling loads that would break a donkey's back  
Till we are sick to death from picking through the trash  
Till we are crippled from weaving carpets, sewing shirts and making cheap shoes.

**We work 70, 80, 90 and more hours a week and still can't afford a home.**

We know that you are with us in the barrios and squatters camps.

**We know that you are with us in cardboard boxes and under bridges.**

We know that you are with us under bushes, inside cars, crammed into shelters, in huts, hovels, tents and open fields. You stand with us naked in the rain. Wherever we seek to survive, you are with us...and we so cry out.

**Please Holy One.**

Touch the hearts of all with plenty so that we can work together to create a world in which everyone has a home.

**Touch the ears of our sisters and brothers so that they may be moved by our cries and see us in the fullness of our humanity.**

Touch the souls of our neighbors so that we may embrace each other in love. This we pray to you, O God of hope eternal. Amen.

## **Additional Bible Study Guides and Worship Resources**

These resources were created by the Rev. Dr. Fran Bogle, and feature material created by the Just Peace Players and other authors.

### **Sharing the Word!**

This booklet or CD provides a method for creating a liturgical drama troupe based on the principles of the Just Peace Players. It includes a variety of liturgical dramas so that your drama group will have an idea of the range of resources it is possible to create.

### **Transforming Hearts through Liturgical Arts: A Bible Study Guide**

This nine-week bible study guide invites people to use a wide range of creative arts as a way of expressing how they interpret and experience scripture. Participants are encouraged to explore God's call to do justice in their lives and world, and to respond to this call in new ways. It is especially interesting to youth and adults.

### **Transforming Hearts through Liturgical Arts: A Bible Study on Economic Justice**

This nine-week bible study guides invites people to use a wide range of creative arts to explore questions about faith and economic justice. Original dramas by the Players encourage people to consider biblical texts in a contemporary context.

### **Called to Do Justice: A Collection of Faith Based Resources about Homelessness**

This booklet or CD combines stories told by the homeless and stories of people whose lives have been changed as they were engaged in ministry with homeless people. It also contains poems, prayers, dramas, workshop and social justice resources about homelessness.