



First United Methodist Church of Ann Arbor

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You are invited to participate in *Spirit of Justice*, a Lenten art installation created by the FUMC congregation.

But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

Amos 5:24

The theme for Lent this year is ***Roll Down, Justice***, reminding us that Jesus gave us the way to be just:

A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.

John 13:34

Carry each other's burdens and so you will fulfill the law of Christ.

Galatians 6:2

At FUMC, we try to love each other and help to carry burdens in many ways and places:

- Hope Clinic
- Mind the Gap
- Love Thy Neighbor
- Crop Walk
- House by the Side of the Road
- Alpha House
- Habitat for Humanity
- Religious Action for Affordable Housing (RAAH)
- Youth Service Trips
- Kenya Service Trip
- Appalachia Mission Trip
- Justice For Our Neighbors (JFON)
- Disability Ministries
- United Women of Faith
- And so many other ways!

This Lent you are invited to express **your call to love and be just** by choosing one of the weekly scripture selections used in worship that speaks to you. Reflect how it expresses the need to love and be just, and then represent your feelings about it in art - **paintings, sculptures, collages, fabric art, quilting, jewelry-making, music recordings, poetry, word art, posters or any creative method.** There are 10 scriptures to peruse.

Here is a schedule of events:

Feb. 8 (7:30 p.m.) and Feb. 19 (4 p.m.) on Zoom

- Learn more about the project

- Use lectio divina and visio divina to read the scriptures
- Q & A time

[Join the Feb. 8 Zoom meeting here.](#)

[Join the Feb. 19 Zoom meeting here.](#)

Feb. 24 - Turn in three choices of scripture to use with your project.

Feb. 27 - Receive your scripture assignment based on your choices and begin working on your project!

March 30 - Projects are due for display.

April 2 - April 9 - The Spirit of Justice installation open for viewing.

Spirit of Justice – a journey of hope and righteousness.

The Process:

1. There is a list of ten scriptures below that will be used in worship this Lent. Look through them.
2. Choose one that speaks to you – what words or images catch your attention?
3. Reflect on the scripture – how does it tie in with love and justice that you have experienced? What would you like to see FUMC do to spread love and justice? What does God have to do with love and justice?
 - a. You might want to use the practice of lectio divina to help you reflect. If you don't know what lectio is, come to an information session on Feb. 8 or Feb. 19!
4. Using your preferred medium, create a piece of art that shares your feelings and thoughts about the Scripture and love/justice. Remember, you can use any medium you like! If you don't feel particularly gifted in art, you can always create a collage, or write a poem and frame it... just get creative!

Week 1: Children of God

1. Amos 5:21-24

I hate, I reject your festivals;
 I don't enjoy your joyous assemblies.
 If you bring me your entirely burned offerings and gifts of food—
 I won't be pleased;
 I won't even look at your offerings of well-fed animals.
 Take away the noise of your songs;
 I won't listen to the melody of your harps.
 But let justice roll down like waters,
 and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

2. Romans 8:31-39

So what are we going to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He didn't spare his own Son but gave him up for us all. Won't he also freely give us all things with him? Who will bring a charge against God's elect people? It is God who acquits them. Who is going to convict them? It is Christ Jesus who died, even more, who was raised, and who also is at God's right side. It is Christ Jesus who also pleads our case for us.
 Who will separate us from Christ's love? Will we be separated by trouble, or distress, or harassment, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? As it is written,

*We are being put to death all day long for your sake.
We are treated like sheep for slaughter.*^[a]

But in all these things we win a sweeping victory through the one who loved us. I'm convinced that nothing can separate us from God's love in Christ Jesus our Lord: not death or life, not angels or rulers, not present things or future things, not powers **39** or height or depth, or any other thing that is created.

Week 2: How Long? Renouncing Evil

3. Psalm 13

How long will you forget me, Lord? Forever?

How long will you hide your face from me?

How long will I be left to my own wits,
agony filling my heart? Daily?

How long will my enemy keep defeating me?

Look at me!

Answer me, Lord my God!

Restore sight to my eyes!

Otherwise, I'll sleep the sleep of death,
and my enemy will say, "I won!"

My foes will rejoice over my downfall.

But I have trusted in your faithful love.

My heart will rejoice in your salvation.

Yes, I will sing to the Lord

because he has been good to me.

Week 3: I Dream of a Church: Christ's Representatives

4. Matthew 25:31-40

"Now when the Human One^[a] comes in his majesty and all his angels are with him, he will sit on his majestic throne. All the nations will be gathered in front of him. He will separate them from each other, just as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on his right side. But the goats he will put on his left.

"Then the king will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who will receive good things from my Father. Inherit the kingdom that was prepared for you before the world began. I was hungry and you gave me food to eat. I was thirsty and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger and you welcomed me. I was naked and you gave me clothes to wear. I was sick and you took care of me. I was in prison and you visited me.'

"Then those who are righteous will reply to him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you a drink? When did we see you as a stranger and welcome you, or naked and give you clothes to wear? When did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?'

"Then the king will reply to them, 'I assure you that when you have done it for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you have done it for me.'

Week 4: I Choose Love; Communities of Forgiveness

5. Luke 23:32-43

They also led two other criminals to be executed with Jesus. When they arrived at the place called The Skull, they crucified him, along with the criminals, one on his right and the other on his left. Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they don't know what they're doing." They drew lots as a way of dividing up his clothing.

The people were standing around watching, but the leaders sneered at him, saying, "He saved others. Let him save himself if he really is the Christ sent from God, the chosen one."

The soldiers also mocked him. They came up to him, offering him sour wine and saying, "If you really are the king of the Jews, save yourself." Above his head was a notice of the formal charge against him. It read "This is the king of the Jews."

One of the criminals hanging next to Jesus insulted him: "Aren't you the Christ? Save yourself and us!"

Responding, the other criminal spoke harshly to him, "Don't you fear God, seeing that you've also been sentenced to die? We are rightly condemned, for we are receiving the appropriate sentence for what we did. But this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom."

Jesus replied, "I assure you that today you will be with me in paradise."

Week 5: God has work for us to do: Faithful Disciples

6. Isaiah 58:6-12

Isn't this the fast I choose:

releasing wicked restraints, untying the ropes of a yoke,
setting free the mistreated,
and breaking every yoke?

Isn't it sharing your bread with the hungry
and bringing the homeless poor into your house,
covering the naked when you see them,
and not hiding from your own family?

Then your light will break out like the dawn,
and you will be healed quickly.

Your own righteousness will walk before you,
and the Lord's glory will be your rear guard.

Then you will call, and the Lord will answer;
you will cry for help, and God will say, "I'm here."

If you remove the yoke from among you,
the finger-pointing, the wicked speech;

if you open your heart to the hungry,
and provide abundantly for those who are afflicted,
your light will shine in the darkness,
and your gloom will be like the noon.

The Lord will guide you continually
and provide for you, even in parched places.

He will rescue your bones.

You will be like a watered garden,
like a spring of water that won't run dry.

They will rebuild ancient ruins on your account;
the foundations of generations past you will restore.
You will be called Mender of Broken Walls,
Restorer of Livable Streets.

Week 6: The Day is Coming: We are One

7. Isaiah 35:1-3

The desert and the dry land will be glad:
the wilderness will rejoice and blossom like the crocus.
They will burst into bloom,
and rejoice with joy and singing.
They will receive the glory of Lebanon,
the splendor of Carmel and Sharon.
They will see the Lord's glory,
the splendor of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands,
and support the unsteady knees.

8. Matthew 21:1-11

When they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus gave two disciples a task. He said to them, "Go into the village over there. As soon as you enter, you will find a donkey tied up and a colt with it. Untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, say that their master needs them." He sent them off right away. Now this happened to fulfill what the prophet said, *Say to Daughter Zion, "Look, your king is coming to you, humble and riding on a donkey, and on a colt the donkey's offspring."*^[a] The disciples went and did just as Jesus had ordered them. They brought the donkey and the colt and laid their clothes on them. Then he sat on them. Now a large crowd spread their clothes on the road. Others cut palm branches off the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds in front of him and behind him shouted, "*Hosanna* to the Son of David! *Blessings on the one who comes in the name of the Lord!*^[b] *Hosanna* in the highest!" And when Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred up. "Who is this?" they asked. The crowds answered, "It's the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."

Holy Week

9. Psalm 42

Just like a deer that craves streams of water,
my whole being^[a] craves you, God.
My whole being thirsts for God, for the living God.
When will I come and see God's face?^[a]
My tears have been my food both day and night,
as people constantly questioned me,
"Where's your God now?"
But I remember these things as I bare my soul:
how I made my way to the mighty one's abode,^[a]

to God's own house,
with joyous shouts and thanksgiving songs—
a huge crowd celebrating the festival!
Why, I ask myself, are you so depressed?
Why are you so upset inside?
Hope in God!
Because I will again give him thanks,
my saving presence and my God.
My whole being is depressed.
That's why I remember you
from the land of Jordan and Hermon,
from Mount Mizar.

Deep called to deep at the noise of your waterfalls;

all your massive waves surged over me.
By day the Lord commands his faithful love;
by night his song is with me—
a prayer to the God of my life.
I will say to God, my solid rock,
“Why have you forgotten me?
Why do I have to walk around,
sad, oppressed by enemies?”
With my bones crushed, my foes make fun of me,
constantly questioning me: “Where's your God now?”
Why, I ask myself, are you so depressed?
Why are you so upset inside?
Hope in God!
Because I will again give him thanks,
my saving presence and my God.

Easter

10. Jeremiah 31:1-6

At that time, declares the Lord,
I will be the God of all the families of Israel,
and they will be my people.
The Lord proclaims:
The people who survived the sword
found grace in the wilderness.
As Israel searched for a place of rest,
the Lord appeared to them^[a] from a distance:^[b]
I have loved you with a love that lasts forever.
And so with unfailing love,
I have drawn you to myself.^[c]
Again, I will build you up,
and you will be rebuilt, virgin Israel.
Again, you will play your tambourines
and dance with joy.
Again, you will plant vineyards
on the hills of Samaria;

farmers will plant and then enjoy the harvests.
The time will come when
the watchmen shout from
the highlands of Ephraim:
“Get ready! We’re going up to Zion
to the Lord our God!”