

Worship Materials for Stand Up and Take Action

Prayers, Hymns and Songs, Readings and Sermon Points

1. PRAYERS FOR YOUR STAND-UP SERVICE

Below are some prayers you might find useful. Micah Challenge, the international Christian campaign on poverty issues, also published an excellent prayer guide, put together in Peru, for Micah Sunday/Stand Up in 2008. It contains reflections, information and prayers on five key global poverty issues: food sovereignty, respectable employment, climate change, migration and international aid. The brochure can be downloaded at <http://www.micahchallenge.org/english/do/calendar/MicahSunday/>

A Prayer for Churches

Give us, O Lord, churches that will be more courageous than cautious;
that will not merely "comfort the afflicted" but "afflict the comfortable";
that will not only love the world but also demand justice;
that will not remain silent when people are calling for a voice;
that will not pass by on the other side
when wounded humanity is waiting to be healed;
that will not only call us to worship
but also send us out to witness;
that will follow Christ even when the way points to a Cross.
To this end we offer ourselves
in the name of him who loved us and gave himself for us.
Christian Conference of Asia

Give us courage, O Lord, to stand up and be counted

Give us courage, O Lord, to stand up and be counted,
To stand up for those who cannot stand up for themselves,
To stand up for ourselves when it is needful for us to do so.
Let us fear nothing more than we fear you
Let us love nothing more than we love you,
For thus we shall fear nothing also.
Let us have no other God before you,
Whether nation, or party, or state, or church.
Let us seek no other peace but the peace which is yours,
And make us its instruments,
Opening our eyes and our ears and our hearts,
So that we should know always what work of peace we may do for you.
Alan Paton

God Our Father, You have given all peoples one common origin

God Our Father,
You have given all peoples one common origin,
And your will is to gather them as one family in yourself.
Give compassion to our leaders, integrity to our citizens, and repentance to us all.
Fill the hearts of all women and men with your love
And the desire to ensure justice for all their brothers and sisters.

By sharing the good things you give us
May we ensure justice and equality for every human being,
An end to all division, and a human society built on love,
Lasting prosperity and peace for all.
We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Zimbabwe Catholic Bishops Conference

Creator God, Maker and Shaper of All That Is

Creator God – maker and shaper of
all that is,
seen and unseen;
You are in the expanse and depth
of Creation, and in the processes
that make life possible.

Yet we are distracted by the gods
we make ourselves and our
lives become fractured and fragmented.
In our brokenness we disturb the
Earth's capacity to hold us.
Instead we find climate uncertainty
and global injustice. Call us back from the brink.
Help us to choose love not fear,
to change ourselves and not the planet;
to act justly for the sake of the vulnerable;
and
to make a difference today
for life tomorrow.

In your name – Father, Son and Spirit.
Amen.

Martyn Goss

2. SUGGESTED HYMNS AND SONGS

Two pieces that particularly lend themselves to a Stand Up service are "How can we stand together" (Bell/Maule) and "We shall stand" (Graham Kendrick). Or what about using the famous South African song "We are marching in the love of God" with "standing" in place of the "marching"?

Some other possibilities available in the most commonly used UK hymnbooks are listed below.

Praise:

- All creatures of our God and king (*William Henry Draper*)
- All praise to thee, for thou, O King divine (*Francis Bland Tucker*)
- Ascribe greatness to our God, the rock (*Peter West et al*)
- Be still, for the presence of the Lord (*David J Evans*)
- Hail to the Lord's anointed (*James Montgomery*)
- How lovely on the mountains are the feet of him (*Leonard E Smith, Jr*)
- Immortal, invisible, God only wise (*Walter Chalmers Smith*)

- Christ is alive! Let Christians sing (*Brian Wren*)
- Crown him with many crowns (*Matthew Bridges*)
- Father, Lord of all creation (*Stewart Cross*)
- From heaven you came (*Graham Kendrick*)
- God is love; let heaven adore him (*Timothy Rees*)

- Jesus shall reign where'er the sun (*Isaac Watts*)
- Lord for the years (*Timothy Dudley-Smith*)
- Meekness and majesty (*Graham Kendrick*)
- O, for a thousand tongues to sing (*Charles Wesley*)
- Tell out, my Soul (*Timothy Dudley-Smith*)
- The Lord hears the cry of the poor (*John B Foley, SJ*)

God's Call and Our Response

- A new commandment I give unto you
- Awake, awake to love and work (*G A Studdert-Kennedy*)
- Beauty for brokenness (*Graham Kendrick*)
- Be thou my vision (*Mary Byrne/Eleanor Hull*)
- Christ's is the world (A touching place) (*Bell/Maule*)
- Come down, O love divine (*Bianco da Siena*)
- Father, who in Jesus found us (*Fred Kaan*)
- Forth in thy name, O Lord, I go (*Charles Wesley*)
- Go, tell it on the mountain (*Geoffrey Marshall-Taylor*)
- God of grace and God of glory (*Harry Emerson Fosdick*)
- Goodness is stronger than evil (*Desmond Tutu/Iona*)
- Great is the darkness (Come, Lord Jesus)
(*Richards/Coates*)
- I, the Lord of sea and sky (*Dan Schutte*)
- Inspired by love and anger (*Bell/Maule*)
- It is the cry of my heart to follow you (*Terry Butler*)
- Longing for light (*Bernadette Farrell*)
- Lord, Jesus Christ (*Patrick Appleford*)
- Make me a channel of your peace (*Sebastian Temple*)
- May the mind of Christ my Saviour (*Kate Barclay Wilkinson*)

- O breath of life, come sweeping through us (*Elizabeth Porter Head*)
- O God of earth and altar (*GK Chesterton*)
- O Jesus, I have promised (*John Ernest Bode*)
- O thou who camest from above (*Charles Wesley*)
- O Lord of our salvation (*Michael Forster*)
- O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness (*J S B Monsell*)
- Seek ye first the Kingdom of God (*Karen Lafferty*)
- Strength will rise (*Brenton Brown*)
- Take my life, and let it be (*Frances Ridley Havergal*)
- Take up thy cross (*Charles Everest*)
- The Kingdom of God is justice and joy (*Bryn Rees*)
- This we can do for justice and for peace (*Brian Wren*)
- Turn to me (*John B Foley, SJ*)
- There's a spirit in the air (*Brian Wren*)
- Thy kingdom come, O God (*Lewis Hensley*)
- We turn to you, O God of every nation (*Fred Kaan*)
- When I survey the wondrous cross (*Isaac Watts*)
- Whose lips will plead (*Alex Muir*)
- You shall cross the barren desert (*Bob Dufford*)

United in Christ, united around the world:

- As we are gathered, Jesus is near (*John Daniels*)
- Bind us together, Lord (*Bob Gillman*)
- Brother, sister, let me serve you (*Richard Gillard*)
- Eternal ruler of the ceaseless round (*John White Chadwick*)
- From many grains (*Michael Forster*)
- Here in this place (*Marty Haugen*)
- Hills of the north, rejoice (*Charles Edward Oakley*)

- I come with joy (*Brian Wren*)
- If you believe, and I believe (*Iona*)
- In Christ there is no east or west (*John Oxenham*)
- Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love (*Tom Colvin*)
- One bread, one body (*John B. Foley, SJ*)
- Put peace into each other's hands (*Fred Kaan*)
- Stand up, stand up for Jesus (*words by Jean Holloway*)

Harvest:

For the fruits of his creation (*Fred Pratt Green*)
O God, who gives the fertile seed (*Timothy Dudley Smith*)

3. READINGS AND THEMATIC SERMON POINTS

If your church uses the common lectionary, the readings for October 18th will be chosen from one of the three sets below:

Thematic Readings	Sequential Readings	Readings for Feast of St Luke
Isaiah 53:4-12	Job 38: 1 – 7 (34 to end)	Isaiah 35: 3-6 or Acts 16: 6 - 12a
Psalms 91:9-16	Psalms 104: 1 – 10 (26, 35c)	Psalms 147: 1-7
Hebrews 5:1-10	Hebrews 5:1-10	2 Timothy 4: 5-17
Mark 10:35-45	Mark 10: 35 - 45	Luke 10: 1- 9

Isaiah 53: 4 – 12	“By a perversion of justice, he was taken away.” The Suffering Servant’s punishments and sorrows were not deserved; the prophet foresees the victim will be unfairly blamed. Yet, through him, God will justify many.
Psalms 91: 9 -16	“No evil shall befall you.” God as refuge and protection.
Hebrews 5: 1 – 10	Jesus’ engagement with suffering was far from passive: “he offered up prayers and petitions with loud cries and tears.” Having humbled himself and suffered, he became the source of eternal salvation.
Mark 10: 35 - 45	The disciples bicker and struggle for power, jockeying for position and status. By contrast, Jesus repudiates domination: greatness is manifest in meeting others’ needs.

The thematic readings for this Sunday show a series of reversals of expectation. The servant’s suffering is undeserved. Jesus, the Son and High Priest, humbles himself and suffers to the point of death. And in the Gospel, there is again reversal of the status quo, this time in the area of political power and assumptions about leadership. Jesus replaces top-down dominance with grass-roots identification and service as the model of leadership for followers of the Way.

These messages offer a challenge that urgently needs to be heeded today when the poor are unjustly treated and blamed, power is wielded autocratically, and there are many needs to be met.

The readings also offer hope, for they proclaim that unjust suffering is not ultimately triumphant: the Suffering Servant receives a great reward, Jesus is risen from the dead. The God who promises to protect those who seek the Kingdom will not abandon them. For people who are suffering unjustly under poverty and oppression – and for those who risk suffering and ridicule to live and work in solidarity with them – this is a source of strength and sustenance.

Today, millions of people around the world will stand in solidarity with the poor and pledge action to help end poverty. This is a simple but real way of demonstrating the grass-roots identification Jesus modelled. It is an opportunity to empathise, to cry out in prayer and to put our faith into action. Today we can be witnesses to, and workers in, God’s upside down kingdom.

Elizabeth Perry