

February 1st February 2026

Call to Worship from Amos

Let justice roll down like rivers, and
righteousness like an ever-flowing stream

Singing the Faith 698 (tune Woodlands)

God! As with silent hearts we bring to mind
how hate and war diminish humankind,
we pause – and seek in worship to increase
our knowledge of the things that make for
peace.

Hallow our will as humbly we recall
the lives of those who gave and give their all.
We thank you, Lord, for women, children, men
who seek to serve in love, today as then.

Give us deep faith to comfort those who
mourn,
high hope to share with all the newly born,
strong love in our pursuit of human worth:
'lest we forget' the future of this earth.

So, Prince of Peace, disarm our trust in power,
teach us to coax the plant of peace to flower.
May we, im-passioned by your living Word,
remember forward to a world restored

Fred Khan

Prayer

Once upon a time, creator God, you brought a
world into being: of beauty, variety, design and
purpose. You saw that it was good; it gave you
joy and delight. You created us in your image;
told us to care for all that you had made. Yet we
fail to reveal your loving nature; the sweet
harmony of Eden has been lost. Earth is crying
out in pain and so are we. We see the damage
we have done; we fall on our knees and beg
your forgiveness.

Pause

Thanks be to God! Creation sings to us; reminds
us of your love. The cock crows, the dove coos,
the sparrow sings and we have hope through
Christ. May we too sing a new song, a chorus in
eternity. Thanks be to God. Alleluia

Alison Judd
Prayer Handbook

Micah 6: 8 What God Requires

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?

“You” can be singular or plural but the context
would suggest that Micah is addressing a group,
if not a nation. We, however can interpret it as
either or both.

1 Corinthians 1: 26-31

Consider your own call, brothers and
sisters: not many of you were wise by human
standards, not many were powerful, not many
were of noble birth. But God chose what is
foolish in the world to shame the wise; God
chose what is weak in the world to shame the
strong; God chose what is low and despised in
the world, things that are not, to reduce to
nothing things that are, so that no one might
boast in the presence of God. He is the source
of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us
wisdom from God, and righteousness and
sanctification and redemption, in order that, as
it is written, ‘Let the one who boasts, boast
in the Lord.’

Well, that’s rather rude isn’t it? “Not many of
you were wise ... not many were powerful “ but
as we read on, we discover that this negative
view of us is turned into a positive as God
chose us!

This week I’ve decided to do something
different. As well as reading some thoughts of
mine, you will be exploring your own ideas of
justice and how it interacts with kindness.
Micah 6:8 is a familiar verse – in this translation
we find the word kindness rather than mercy –
but how does it play out in real life in 2026?

Take a piece of paper (if you are doing this in a
group, perhaps a piece of flipchart paper) and
write the word JUSTICE in the middle. Around it
write any words that come to mind related to
justice and injustice. Adjectives, places, people
both here and abroad.

Now think about how kindness might impact on
the words you have written, are there other
words you want to add?

Next, we consider action. Micah tells us to “do justice”, not just know what it is and be able to recognise it (or the lack of it) but to be actively involved. To paraphrase a familiar saying, “All that is required for evil to flourish, is for good people to do nothing.”

What actions can we add to our picture? I think we would all write PRAY in big letters at the top but what else? Some things we can do as individuals – support local foodbanks, write to our MP about the way asylum seekers are treated and contribute to charities and other groups set up to help. Some we can do in groups, be that our church or wider community, for example hosting a foodbank, supporting charities who work here or abroad by collecting things that are needed.

Put the piece of paper somewhere where you will see it every day, on the fridge or by the kettle perhaps. On the first of each month, choose one action to do but every time you see the paper, use that as a reminder to pray for the situations, people and places that you have identified today. You will identify other examples as the year goes on so add them in. There may be things you can cross off as justice is served.

Intercessions

God of justice, our world is a very scary place today. We look around and see wars in Ukraine and the Middle East, floods in this country and major snowstorms threatening America. Political instability is bringing the threat of war on a wider scale and we feel powerless. Show us how to stand for justice, how to advocate for those with no voice in our society, how to support those who stand up and speak truth to power, frequently paying a heavy price for their involvement.

You sent your Son to earth as a tiny, vulnerable baby, be with us in our vulnerability and powerlessness we pray. Amen

Make us channels of your peace, where there is hatred, let us bring your love, where there is injury, your pardon Lord, and where there's doubt, true faith in you.

Where there's despair in life, let us bring hope. where there's darkness, light and where there's sadness, joy.

Singing the Faith 520 (tune Gatesgarth)

Give to me, Lord, a thankful heart
and a discerning mind;
give, as I play the Christian's part,
the strength to finish what I start
and act on what I find.

When, in the rush of days, my will
is habit-bound and slow,
help me to keep in vision still
what love and power and peace can fill
a life that trusts in you.

By your divine and urgent claim,
and by your human face,
kindle our sinking hearts to flame,
and as you teach the world your name
let it become your place.

Jesus, with all your Church I long
to see your kingdom come:
show me your way of righting wrong
and turning sorrow into song
until you bring me home.

Thomas Caryl Micklem