



## Meditation to Guide Mid-Day Action

During these first days of Holy Week,  
the church is called upon to ponder the mission of the Servant in Isaiah:

The one who is anointed with the Spirit of God  
to bring justice to the nations,  
to tend the weak and the helpless  
to open the eyes of those without sight  
and to free those who are oppressed.

“See, the former things have come to pass,  
and new things I now declare;  
before they spring forth, I tell you of them.”

*(Isaiah 42: 1-9, Monday of Holy Week)*

Jesus claimed this mission as his own  
at the start of his public ministry:  
“Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

*(Luke 4: 21)*

Jesus’ proclamation of good news to the poor compels him  
to speak truth to power throughout his ministry  
and leads to the cross,  
where he labors to bring the “new things” of God to birth.

As we prepare to take an action for peace  
on this Wednesday of Holy Week, the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Invasion of Iraq,  
let us remember that we inherit this mission from our beloved Jesus,  
and that the tradition of struggle for justice continues through us.

In the words of our ancestor in faith and struggle, Martin Luther King, Jr.:

“The cross we bear precedes the crown we wear.  
To be a Christian one must take up [the] cross,  
with all its difficulties and agonizing  
and tension-packed content and carry it  
until that very cross leaves its marks upon us  
and redeems us to that more excellent way  
which comes only through suffering.”

***Let us pray:*** *O God, teach us what it is to be faithful;  
Let us have courage to take up the cross for our time  
And risk the hard work for justice and peace.*