

The WISC Faithful Budget Campaign Prayer Vigil

Led By Justice and Witness Ministries, United Church of Christ

Friday, July 22th at 12:30 pm

Leader: We are gathered as people of faith on Capitol Hill to pray for a just and compassionate federal budget. For two weeks we have lifted our prayers - inspired by a common spiritual conviction that God has called on us all to protect the vulnerable and promote the dignity of all individuals no matter where they live in the world. We are an interfaith coalition aiming to protect those struggling to overcome poverty in the U.S. and abroad, and to safeguard programs that protect people in poverty from the U.S. budget deficit debates.

We believe that the federal budget is a reflection of our values and our vision of the common good, and we pray for a global economy and a national budget that breaks the yokes of injustice, poverty, hunger and unemployment throughout the world. Today, as Congress and the President struggle to find a debt ceiling solution I ask you to join me in prayer:

Opening Prayer

O God, open this gathering of your people to the presence of your Holy Spirit. Give us a vision and the passion to call for and live into a world that more closely reflects your kingdom, your promise of abundance and fullness of life. Open our eyes and the eyes of our lawmakers to the needs of the poor. Open our hearts and the hearts of our lawmakers to the suffering of your peoples all over the world. Open our ears and the ears of our lawmakers to words of peace. Open our lips to demand justice. Open the hearts of our lawmakers to act with justice and compassion. Amen.

May Your Kingdom Come

For the hungry....

We cry out for Your mercy.

For the hurting...

We cry out for Your mercy.

Come Spirit come (4x)

May your kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven (3x)

Come Lord come (2x)

For the warring...

For the dying...

Scripture reading: Matthew 25:31-40

³¹“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. ³²All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, ³³and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. ³⁴Then the king will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, you that are blessed by my

Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; ³⁵for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' ³⁷Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? ³⁸And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? ³⁹And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' ⁴⁰And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.'

Prayers of the People

We pray for those who suffer hunger and devastating famines; that that we may respond to them with generosity,

Come Spirit come.

We pray for those the world over who migrate in search of freedom and opportunity; that we may respond to them with welcoming spirits,

Come Spirit come.

We pray for victims of war and all kinds of violence; that we may respond to them with compassionate care,

Come Spirit come.

We pray for those with HIV/Aids in need of merciful care; that we may share our medicines and our healthcare resources,

Come Spirit come.

We pray for those crafting budget resolutions; may they be led by your Holy Spirit in their work,

Come Spirit come. May your kingdom come, as it is in heaven. Amen

Closing Prayer