

Sixth Sunday after Epiphany: February 11, 2007

Like Trees Planted by the Water

Litany of Thanksgiving for Racial Justice Sunday

In God there is no coincidence of timing, but rather Kairos, God's own time, bringing together in history moments of holy opportunity for the building of the Beloved Community. Such a time was the 1950s, which saw the birth of the modern Civil Rights Movement as well as the United Church of Christ. Throughout our history, the UCC has found inspiration in that movement for racial justice, and we have sought to respond locally, nationally and globally to its challenges. This litany uses Psalm 1 from today's lectionary to weave a prayer of thanksgiving for this privilege.

ONE: Rosa Parks took a fateful bus ride in 1955
and the United Church of Christ was born in 1957.

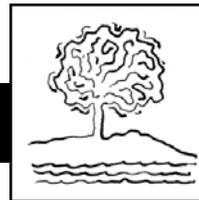
ALL: **We thank You, God, that we did not sit in the seat of
scuffers but delighted in the law of the Lord.**

ONE: Our mission as a church has always been defined
by the struggle for racial justice in our land and this world.

ALL: **We thank You, God, that we did not shrink or fade in the
heat of the struggle but stood like trees planted by the
waters.**

ONE: We marched in the streets with King and sat in at lunch coun-
ters with students.

ALL: **We thank You, God, that we have yielded fruit in our season.**



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ONE: Our nation dared to dream and to awake to a new nation headed toward racial equality.

ALL: **We thank You, God, for showing us the way of the righteous that we might walk in it.**

ONE: We joined the world in the fight against apartheid in South Africa and a raw power succumbed to the will of the just.

ALL: **We thank You, God, that the way of White supremacy, like the way of the wicked, is perishing everyday.**

ONE: Our church continues to look inward and outward to make love of neighbor, regardless of color, language, nationality or race, a true reality in all our churches, all our ministries and in our world.

ALL: **We thank You, God, that we have delighted in the law of the Lord, the law of justice for all people. Keep us faithful, keep us courageous, keep us with You on your path. Amen.**

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This *Litany for Racial Justice Sunday* was written by the Rev. Madison Shockley, Senior Minister, Pilgrim United Church of Christ, Carlsbad, California.



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