

Jubilee Weekend 2018

A Standard to the Nations

*“And He will lift up a standard for the nations
And assemble the banished ones of Israel,
And will gather the dispersed of Judah From the four
corners of the earth.”
Isaiah 11:12*

In the Old Testament, G-d lays out the Jubilee vision of building right relationships. This year, our Jubilee Weekend theme is “Lift up a Standard for the Nations.” Help us through prayer, action and support to lift a standard to the poor of the world by changing policies here in the United States that will have a global impact.

Included in this guide are sample prayers, relevant scriptures, action guides and other resources to help you plan your Jubilee Weekend. We welcome you to adapt any of the following materials for your tradition. We also invite you to simply be inspired by these examples and let the Spirit move your congregation to pray and act for a Jubilee for all of G-d’s people.

For questions or further resources, please contact us at
outreach@jubileeusa.org.

Thank you for helping us proclaim Jubilee and lift up a Standard
for the Nations this year.

These materials are for use on the day Jubilee Weekend is
celebrated nationally, or at any time during the year. We're
grateful to be praying with you and working for a better world.

Best,

Kate

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*Building an economy that serves, protects and
promotes the participation of the most vulnerable*

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Prayer

Prayer for a Higher Way

Dearest G-d, Lord of all
We come to Thee this day
With a petition in our hearts and
on our lips
For the suffering of the world
Our ways are not Thy ways
Our thoughts are not Thy thoughts
Help us now to lift our sights
And build a better world
Bless us to speak out
To stand for fairness and truth
And as a nation treat others
As we would want to be treated

Prayer for Freedom

O G-d, We know of thy goodness
To all creatures under heaven
We ask Thee this day for help
On behalf of those weighed down with
burdens they cannot bear
We pray for those crippled by debt
We remember them and their suffering
And we ask for them freedom
From debt, bondage, crushing poverty
Give unto them abundantly, G-d
A fresh start, free from debt
And bless us as we work for their
freedom, to be guided through Thee

Prayer for Justice

G-d of all the earth
We recognize the importance of this
moment
We see the chance we have been given
To make the world a better place
And change a system that exploits the
poor and vulnerable
Those who are so beloved by you
Help us call for change
Help us fix our laws so justice can be
done
And protect the widow and the orphan
And so many of the world's most
vulnerable
Please, G-d, show us the way
The way to your Jubilee

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Generous G-d,
You have given the world abundance
beyond measure
And have provided enough for all
And yet there are poor among us
We thank you for your constant
presence with those who suffer
Help us to use our gifts to help the
hungry and cold, outcast and alone.
In Your name we pray, Amen.

Scripture

CHRISTIAN

OLD TESTAMENT

Exodus 3:7; 20; 21; 23

“At the end of every seventh year you are to cancel the debts of those who owe you money ... the Lord himself has declared the debt canceled.” Deut. 15:1-2 (Good News Translation)

Leviticus 25-27, 50-52

“Now let’s give up all our claims to repayment. Cancel all the debts they owe you – money or grain or wine or olive oil.” Neh. 5:10-11 (Good News Translation)

Psalms 146:7-9

“He who oppresses the poor shows contempt for their Maker, but whoever is kind to the needy honors God.” Prov. 14:31 (RSV)

“How long will you go on getting rich by forcing your debtors to pay up? But before you know it, you that have conquered others will be in debt yourselves and forced to pay interest.” Hab. 2: 6-7 (RSV)

Isaiah 58; 61:1-2

“And He will lift up a standard for the nations, And assemble the banished ones of Israel, And will gather the dispersed of Judah From the four corners of the earth.” Isaiah 11:12

NEW TESTAMENT

Luke 4:17-19; 7:36-50; 11:2-4; 16:1-3

“A certain creditor had two debtors; one owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. When they could not pay, he canceled the debts for both of them.” Luke 7: 41-42 (RSV)

Matthew 6:9-15; 18:21-35

Acts 2:43-46; 4:32-37

Scripture

JEWISH

TORAH

Exodus 3:7; 20; 21; 23

“At the end of every seventh year you are to cancel the debts of those who owe you money ... the Lord himself has declared the debt canceled.” Deut. 15:1-2 (Good News Translation)

Leviticus 25-27, 50-52

“Now let’s give up all our claims to repayment. Cancel all the debts they owe you – money or grain or wine or olive oil.” Neh. 5:10-11 (Good News Translation)

NEVI'IM

“He who oppresses the poor shows contempt for their Maker, but whoever is kind to the needy honors G-d.” Prov. 14:31 (RSV)

Psalms 146:7-9

K'TUVIM

“How long will you go on getting rich by forcing your debtors to pay up? But before you know it, you that have conquered others will be in debt yourselves and forced to pay interest.” Hab. 2: 6-7 (RSV)

Scripture

MUSLIM

QUR'AN

2:280 The Qur'an encourages debt cancellation whenever a debtor is unable, due to his particular circumstances, to repay the debt: "and if (the debtor) is in difficulty, then (there should be) postponement until (he is) at ease, but that you should give it as charity is (even) better for you, if you knew."

9:60 The alms are only for the poor and the needy, and those who collect them (for distribution), and those whose hearts are to be reconciled (resettlement of families, refugees etc), to free captives (slaves etc) and the debtors in need, and for the cause of Allah and the needy travelers; a duty imposed by Allah. Allah is Knower, Wise."

2:282 O you who believe, when you transact a loan for any period, you shall write it down. An impartial scribe shall do the writing. No scribe shall refuse to perform this service, according to Allah's teachings. He shall write, while the debtor dictates the terms. He shall

observe Allah his Lord and never cheat. If the debtor is mentally incapable, or helpless, or cannot dictate, his guardian shall dictate equitably.

2:276-280 Allah condemns usury, and blesses charities. Allah dislikes every disbeliever, guilty. O you who believe, you shall observe Allah and refrain from all kinds of usury, if you are believers. If you do not, then expect a war from Allah and His messenger. But if you repent, you may keep your capitals, without inflicting injustice, or incurring injustice. If the debtor is unable to pay, wait for a better time. If you give up the loan as a charity, it would be better for you, if you only knew.

59:07 That which Allah giveth as spoil unto His messenger from the people of the townships, it is for Allah and His messenger and for the near of kin and the orphans and the needy and the wayfarer, that it become not a commodity between the rich among you.

● ACT NOW ●

As part of your Jubilee Weekend service or event, we invite you to take action with us to build an economy that serves, protects and promotes the participation of the most vulnerable.

If you belong to a faith community that chooses not to participate in these actions on a day of worship, you can schedule a time to act as a community that is appropriate to your faith tradition.

The following paragraphs and pages detail different ways you and your faith community can get involved. Find something that works for you here, or use these resources as a guide to create something new. Whatever you do, don't hesitate to contact us for help and please, let us know how it goes! Please send any event pictures to outreach@jubileeusa.org.

SIGN OUR PETITION

Attached is a printout of our petition concerning NAFTA and access to medicines. We are urging the White House, Congress, and Administration officials negotiating the new NAFTA (or USMCA) to take into account human rights and how the agreement will affect access to medicines for developing countries.

Please sign our petition -- individually, or as a congregation -- to support access to medicines for the most vulnerable.

CONTACT YOUR REPRESENTATIVES

Jubilee USA is constantly helping educate decision makers on economic issues that affect the poor. Organize a time with your faith group to visit our website and send emails or pick up the phone and call your representatives to let them know that economic justice is important to you.

Specifically, individually or as a faith group, you can voice your support of continuing to protect the peoples of the world through access to medicines.

Please visit <http://www.jubileeusa.org/accesstomedics2018> to see how you can help. Sending this link out to your church congregation or as part of an email newsletter can also be an excellent way to get your congregation involved.

PLAN AN EVENT

Plan an event with your faith group to discuss the importance of access to medicines in trade agreements. This is also a great opportunity to take time to pray for the health of the poorest and most vulnerable.

Organize a day surrounding productive discussion, education, and prayer for the nations affected by a lack of access to medicines for the poor and vulnerable. One way to pursue education with your faith group or congregation is to hold an education hour. At the end, ask people involved to write letters or provide other ways to take action (like signing our petition).

Other things to keep in mind when planning an event:

- Let your local press know what you have planned. Many smaller local papers are glad to get information about communities getting involved in social justice. If you need help, contact us at outreach@jubileeusa.org.
- Have your clergy or faith leader share what you are doing for service at local clergy meetings.
- Set up a prayer corner in your house of worship. Pray for people living in poverty and for world leaders who make decisions about international and domestic finance, as well as trade and access to medicines. Include pictures and short facts, as well as countries affected. Have a place for individuals to light candles and a journal to write prayers. If the prayer space is in the sanctuary, you might invite people who wish to visit the prayer station to do so at appropriate times during the service.

NAFTA and International Public Health:

An Interfaith Call for Access to Medicines

President Trump, Members of Congress and Administration officials,

Recognizing the inherent dignity of the human person, our faith traditions call us to care for the sick and respond to the needs of the poor in our societies. Trade agreements can have enormous impacts on the ability of the sick and the poor to access the medicines they need for healing and even survival. We ask that:

- The renegotiated NAFTA reaffirm the TRIPS public health protections that enable the United States and other countries to promote the human right to health and access to medicines for all.
- The investor-state arbitration mechanism not be included in the renegotiated agreement, defending sovereignty and the obligation of governments to safeguard the common good within their nations.
- A renewal of the Bipartisan Agreement on Trade Policy espoused by President George W. Bush and leaders of both parties in Congress in May 2007. This “May 10th Agreement” recognized the flexibility in intellectual property rights provisions with regard to pharmaceuticals that developing countries sometimes need in order to serve the public health needs of their people.

NAME

EMAIL

ZIP CODE

SIGNATURE



NAFTA and International Public Health:

An Interfaith Call for Access to Medicines

May 18th, 2018

Recognizing the inherent dignity of the human person, our faith traditions call us to care for the sick and respond to the needs of the poor in our societies. Trade agreements can have enormous impacts on the ability of the sick and the poor to access the medicines they need for healing and even survival.

Therefore, we agree with the provisions of the World Trade Organization's Agreement on Trade- Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS), currently in effect in all NAFTA countries. The TRIPS agreement calls for respect of intellectual property rights, including those for medicines. Crucially, as was underscored by the Doha Declaration on TRIPS and Public Health, it also recognizes each nation's right to take necessary steps to ensure that medicines are available to all of their residents.

We would also like to take this opportunity to commend the Administration's defense of sovereignty on the issue of investor-state arbitration; each state has not only the right but the obligation to safeguard the common good within their nations.

At this time, we recall the Bipartisan Agreement on Trade Policy espoused by President George W. Bush and leaders of both parties in Congress in May 2007. This "May 10th Agreement" recognizes the flexibility in intellectual property rights provisions with regard to pharmaceuticals that developing countries sometimes need in order to serve the public health needs of their people. We hope our political leaders can come together once again on these principles in support of the most vulnerable.

We call on you to ensure that no terms of a renegotiated NAFTA go beyond the TRIPS agreement mandates, and avoid enhanced and extended monopolies on life-essential medicines. Instead, we ask that a renegotiated NAFTA reaffirm the TRIPS public health protections that enable the United States and other countries to promote the human right to health and access to medicines for all.

Most Reverend Timothy P. Broglio Chairman of the Committee on International Justice and Peace, The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

Most Reverend Michael B. Curry Presiding Bishop and Primate, The Episcopal Church

Reverend Dr. Susan Henry-Crowe General Secretary of the General Board of Church and Society, The United Methodist Church

Reverend Dr. John C. Dorhauer General Minister and President, The United Church of Christ

Reverend Elizabeth A. Eaton Presiding Bishop, The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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