

SATURDAY PRAYER VIGIL

*At the Coalition of Immokalee Workers' Farmworker Freedom March
April 17, 2010*

Gathering music by The Jaraneros

CIW Opening Words

Bishop Wenski, Words of Support

Responsive Prayer (Candice, a teenage member of the CIW, poured water from a pitcher at each refrain, while local clergy from the Catholic, Episcopal, United Methodist, Presbyterian and United Church of Christ led the readings and Sylvia, a farmworker from Immokalee added her own petition)

In ancient days the prophet Amos called his own society to account, proclaiming God's judgment upon those who trample the head of the poor into the dust of the earth, and push the afflicted out of the way. He announced God's demand that the powerful instead "let justice roll down like waters and righteousness like an everflowing stream." As we join in prayer for farmworker freedom, we will take up that refrain. The leader will say: God of freedom, and together we'll respond "let justice roll down like waters." Let us pray.

We remember all who labor under this scorching sun, backs bent, hands drenched in pesticides, picking row after row, no end in sight, working hours and days and weeks for poverty pay on which their families struggle to survive; God of freedom,

Let justice roll down like waters

Into this desert of justice, the prophet Isaiah reminds us of God's promise "Waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water." God of freedom,

Let justice roll down like waters

We remember men and women harvesting in conditions of modern-day slavery. For all who are beaten, chained, threatened, unable to leave, whose opportunity to earn a living has turned into living terror; God of freedom,

Let justice roll down like waters

As you freed the Israelites from bondage to Pharaoh, parting the waters that they might journey to Promised Land; God of freedom,

Let justice roll down like waters

In ancient days, Jesus and a woman at the well encountered one another as strangers coming to draw water, yet through respectful conversation found sustenance for both body and spirit; God of freedom

Let justice roll down like waters

Standing before Publix's headquarters we are poised: human to corporation, yet hoping for this engagement to become human to human; farmworkers and executives committing to work hand in hand to end the human rights crisis in the fields; God of freedom

Let justice roll down like waters

John of Patmos dreamed of a river of life flowing from the throne of God, beside it, a tree of life , producing twelve kinds of fruit, whose leaves were for the healing of the nations; God of freedom

Let justice roll down like waters

Through this march we offer body, mind and spirit to advance a new era of human rights in the fields, and the beginning of the end of forced labor, poverty and powerlessness, may this offering bear fruit and soon; God of freedom

Let justice roll down like waters!

Sylvia's petition

Let justice roll down like waters! Let justice roll down like waters! Let justice roll down like waters!

Words of Hope from MLK, March 25, 1965 - Montgomery, AL

I come to say to you this afternoon, however difficult the moment, however frustrating the hour, it will not be long, because "truth crushed to earth will rise again."

How long? Not long, because "no lie can live forever."

How long? Not long, because "you shall reap what you sow."

How long? Not long, because the arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice.

Song of Hope

Blessing of the march by Bishop Wenski

Closing Music by the Jaraneros