

FARMWORKER WORSHIP RESOURCES

Selected Lectionary Scripture and Connection to Farmworkers

The Old Testament Lesson- Numbers 11:4-6,10-16,24-29:

This is a passage of God's people complaining to Moses about the food that God is providing for them. One could connect this with the importance for us to be thankful for what God provides for us, specifically the food we eat, and also aware of those who are God's agents in helping to provide the food we eat. One way that we can support the way that God is providing for us through the work of the farmworkers is to be concerned that they are being treated with the respect and dignity that all of the people serving the common good deserve.

The Epistle Lesson- James 4:7-12 (4:13--5:6):

In the latter verses (4:13-5:6) James is very clear that God sees the inequity between us who live comfortably while those who harvest our food and provide for our comfort are mistreated and inadequately paid. James even asserts that God not only shows compassion towards them, but also claims that God's wrath is being kindled toward us for our complicity in this inequality. Without soft words, James calls us to repentance and amendment of these injustices in our society—including the injustices of sub-poverty wages, lack of basic benefits (healthcare, overtime pay, sick days, etc), and the right to organize, which most workers enjoy.

*For additional and more detailed scripture commentary, visit:
www.pcusa.org/fairfood/resources.htm*

Petitions or Prayers

For the farmworkers who toil in the fields earning sub-poverty wages, without benefits or basic rights enjoyed by most other workers, let us pray to the Lord.

For the liberation and safety of the farmworkers in Florida and throughout the world, who at this very moment, are held against their will in modern-day slavery, let us pray to the Lord.

For Subway, Chipotle, and other corporations that buy Florida's produce to practice social responsibility and value the dignity of the farmworkers in their supply chain more than their profits, let us pray to the Lord.

For the Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW) in their Campaign for Fair Food, and all those who are working for justice and dignity for farmworkers, let us pray to the Lord.

For the mindfulness to remember those who harvest our fruits and vegetables and for the courage to partner with farmworkers to work for justice and dignity, let us pray to the Lord.