

## Litany

### **Social Justice: Our Calling to Fulfill**

*(A Litany by Bishop Adam J. Richardson, 115)*

**Leader:** From the earliest days of human community, the call for Social Justice occurred on the first day someone felt mistreated, marginalized, oppressed, and felt compelled to speak up to affirm their own humanity; when the first prayer prayed for relief from bigotry, hatred, and the afflictions and assaults that come with being the “stranger.”

**People:** **Social Justice, our calling to fulfill!**

**Leader:** The Bible provides theological weight and a spiritual mandate for Social Justice. It is Divinity urging, prompting, inspiring humanity forward, a mighty Demand from the precincts of heaven, and an answer to urgent prayer. It is Moses doing community-organizing among the people of Goshen, with Aaron by his side, speaking truth to the head of state the Divine imperative, “Let My People Go!”

**People:** **Social Justice, our calling to fulfill!**

**Leader:** It is Mordecai and Esther making a pledge that might include personal peril to take a stand against potential genocide, essentially declaring “Our lives matter!”

**People:** **Social Justice, our calling to fulfill!**

**Leader:** It is Amos who warns that even our worship is profaned and repudiated when it is unaccompanied by a heightened concern for neighbors, rather to “...let justice run down like water, and righteousness like a mighty stream.”

**People:** **Social Justice, our calling to fulfill!**

**Leader:** The prophet Micah speaks, “He has shown you what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?” It is rooted in the message and ministry of Jesus that leads to Salvation and Liberation, the essence of which is Love.

**People:** **Social Justice, our calling to fulfill!**

**Leader:** Civil Rights icon, Diane Nash, exhorts, “It’s our responsibility, everybody’s responsibility. There are 300 million of us, and Social Change is the job of each of us.”

**People:** **Social Justice, our calling to fulfill!**

**Leader:** Congressman John Lewis speak with passion, “When you see something that is not right, not fair, not just - you have a moral obligation and a mandate to do something, to say something, to speak up, to speak out.”

**People:** **Social Justice, our calling to fulfill!**

**Leader:** Ambassador Andrew Young observes that “The complexity of good and evil in this world is going to always be with us...” It is the reason Social Justice is an ongoing fight for good – clean water, clean air, nutritious food, equal access to health care and education, equal protections under the law, fair and humane immigration policies, and all manner of civil rights. It is standing against racism, against sexism, against religious bigotry, against police brutality, against white supremacy, against unjust laws, against apathy, against violence, against voter suppression, and the thousand and one afflictions that accompany poverty.

**People:** **Social Justice is, and must be, in the warp and woof of the Gospel we proclaim and sing. It is our calling to fulfill! And now we vote.**

**PEOPLE:** We worship and exalt our God, we pray, sing, and exalt our God with joy, for the joy of the Lord is our strength.