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LIVING WAGE BANNER BLESSING
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In the same week that Seattle passed the \$15/hour minimum wage ordinance, 13 congregations in 8 denominations lifted "Living Wage For All" banners on their houses of worship. The banners were blessed at Seattle City Hall.

Banners are proclamations, bold statements that speak of identity and passion. The banners we claim today speak of our desire to manifest a vision broader than a single piece of legislation, we know \$15 is a good step but this is about so much more.

These banners speak of a dream of wholeness, of healing not just for those who are working 3 jobs just to support a family, but also of healing for those afflicted with the illness of greed. The cry for a living wage for all is a cry for people to be in right relationship with one another. We cannot be in right relationship with one another as a society as long as the chasm of economic inequality tears us apart. The call for a living wage for all is a cry for justice and healing for all.

By displaying these banners proudly on our houses of worship, our very buildings become a living voice, a voice that calls out to our neighborhoods saying to those who struggling to make ends meet, you are not alone, that there are communities who care in word and deed.

As we face one another we remind ourselves that we are not alone in advocating, giving, and working towards the world where the sharing of all means the scarcity of none.

So, friends I know and friends I have yet to meet, I ask you:

Will you display these banners prominently as just one of the ways your community advocates for economic justice? If so let me hear a joyful, "We will!"

Will you allow these banners to remind and encourage your community to listen to the stories and dreams of those oppressed by income inequality?

Will you be a people of hope, lifting high these banners as just one more sign that the universe is indeed bending towards justice?

Let us pray:

Ancient of Days, Blessed One who was and is and is to come, this Sunday we celebrate Pentecost, the retelling of the story of how your spirit filled the hearts of a handful of men and women who were inspired by Christ and were gathered in one place.

In that story they speak words of the prophet Joel saying that you...will pour out your Spirit upon all...that youth will see visions and the elders shall dream dreams. Holy One we have been captivated by your vision, a dream Christ spoke of as the kin_dom of heaven

A vision of equality, a vision of justice, and a vision of peace

A vision that calls us to have a different relationship with money and power, one that sees these as tools not for accumulation and domination but for liberation and healing.

In that same Pentecost story we hear how this ancient community demonstrated through the giving and sharing of their resources, that all are your beloved children, deserving of justice and capable of acting justly.

As we hold these banners in our hands, we hold in our hearts the stories we know of those who struggle with less than a living wage, they are the stories of those who attend our churches, the stories of our families of our neighbors, they are the stories of those forced to make inhumane choices between food and medicine, between rent and clothes

As we carry these stories let us also hold onto hope. Hope grounded in you, the lover of justice, the spirit of compassion, the one who holds all of who we are.

Fill our memory with the record of your works, enlighten our understanding with the light of the holy spirit and by the testimony of those who clamor for a living wage stir our hearts to action

May we and all who come into the houses of worship where these banners hang, find comfort and wisdom, support and strength, joy and thanksgiving as we look forward to your kin_dom come. Amen.