



February 21, 2006

Dear Jubilee Congregation,

Greetings! As we enter the Lenten season we look forward to our annual Jubilee Sunday, which this year is planned for March 19th. On this day, Jubilee Congregations around the country will reflect upon the spiritual and theological roots of the Jubilee call for global economic justice and will respond to this call by taking action as a community in support of debt cancellation for impoverished nations.

We hope that many of you will participate on this day by setting aside some time during your regular Sunday service to deepen your faith community's understanding of the international debt crisis, pray and sing together for Jubilee justice, take up a special offering to fulfill your community's financial commitment to the Jubilee USA Network, and take action by participating in Jubilee's "Drop the Debt, Cut the Strings" postcard campaign.

Enclosed you will find special Jubilee Sunday worship resources to supplement those already available in the Jubilee Congregations "Putting Faith into Practice" handbook. Although the resources are based around the scriptures assigned to March 19th, feel free to use them to plan a Jubilee Sunday service at any point during the year if a different Sunday would work better for your community.

The enclosed resources include a commentary on two of the lectionary scriptures for March 19th, a "moment for mission" piece which can be read aloud during a Jubilee Sunday service and/or reproduced in the bulletin, and special liturgical resources that can be used or adapted for use in your congregation's worship service. Many, many thanks to Rev. Stan Duncan for the incredible work he did in putting these resources together! We have also received special permission to enclose a copy of the song "Are You Ready to Rise?" The song comes to us through Rev. James Jerpseth who pastors Atonement Lutheran, a Jubilee Congregation in San Diego. It can be used at no cost one time only in Jubilee Sunday services, but for future use would need to be purchased from CantaNova at their web site (www.CantaNova.com).

You may also want to use Jubilee Sunday to initiate your community's participation in Jubilee USA's "Drop the Debt, Cut the Strings" postcard campaign. This year's postcard campaign calls on our elected officials to support debt cancellation without harmful economic policy "strings" attached.

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Sample postcards are enclosed along with a fact sheet that provides background information on the campaign. Postcards can be ordered from the Jubilee USA Network office by sending an email to coord@jubileeusa.org, or calling us at 202-783-0214. Please remember when ordering postcards, that there are three different versions. We hope that each member of your congregation will send a postcard to the Treasury Department, their Representative, and both of their Senators!

Finally, many congregations use Jubilee Sunday as an opportunity to fulfill their financial commitment to Jubilee USA by taking up a special offering during their Jubilee Sunday service. ***If at all possible, we request that all Jubilee Congregations send their 2006 financial contributions to the Jubilee USA office by October 1st at the latest.*** As a general rule, Jubilee Congregations contribute \$1 per member or one special collection per year to the Jubilee USA Network to help make the Jubilee Congregations program sustainable. Taking up an offering during your Jubilee Sunday service will enable your congregation to fulfill its financial commitment early, and will save us from having to bother you about it later in the year. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Jubilee Congregations Coordinator Kristin Sundell at 443-845-4461 or Kristin@jubileeusa.org.

We can't thank you enough for the commitment your faith community has made to support the global Jubilee movement for debt cancellation. It has been a joy getting to "meet" many of you by phone over the past four months, and we look forward to working side by side with you as we prepare for the upcoming Sabbath Year in 2007. Please keep us posted on what your congregation is up to with its Jubilee work, including your plans for Jubilee Sunday, and let us know how we can help and support you!

Peace and Blessings,

Kristin, Diane, Kate, and Nathaniel -- the Jubilee Congregations Team