

# Jubilee Sunday

A Christian Worship & Action Resource for Your Faith Community



**Another World is Possible!**

*Stand Up & Take Action*



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Dear partners for a real Jubilee,

Thank you for participating in our annual Jubilee Sunday -- your participation in this time will help empower our leaders in the United States to take action for the world's poorest.

**Join Jubilee Congregations around the United States on October 14, 2012** to pray for global economic justice, to deepen your community's understanding of the debt issue, take decisive action for debt cancellation and just economic policies, and collect a special offering to support the work of the Jubilee USA Network. **Incorporate one prayer and/or dedicate your entire service to the vision of Jubilee.**

**Enclosed you will find educational and worship resources for your annual Jubilee Sunday.** By reading the lessons of the Bible and the voices of the prophets in new ways, we share an opportunity to learn how to continue to put our faith into action. We encourage you to adapt these resources in any way that works for your congregation. We would also love to hear the creative ideas that you initiate in your own congregation so we can share with others across the country.

Each year we encourage our communities to hold Jubilee Sunday and other events in coordination with our global partners who hold events for Jubilee in 50 countries worldwide, **taking action in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and Europe.** We link ourselves with those in the world's poorest countries, amplifying their voices to be heard by our world leaders.

Jubilee offers a range of activities you can do alongside your prayer to take action for global economic justice. **This year, we ask you to help make paper chains with messages on them to your members of Congress as we gear up for the reintroduction of the Jubilee Act.**

Additionally, you'll find a number of different **educational workshops** inside the packet that can help deepen your community's resolve and understanding surrounding the debt crisis. This year, alongside your prayer service, we are especially encouraging you to **host interfaith events in your community** – either interfaith services, dialogues and workshops, fellowships and potlucks. **Build local community across faiths while working for global economic justice,** take pictures, and tell us how all of your events went.

Through these prayers and actions your congregation can use your privilege of living in the world's most powerful democracy to **raise up the voices of the most vulnerable** through your advocacy efforts.

We hope that this resource will help you plan your Jubilee Sunday. If you need any assistance in planning your event please feel free to contact Jennifer, at 202-783-3566 or at [jennifer@jubileeusa.org](mailto:jennifer@jubileeusa.org).

Thanks for all the important work you do on behalf of others and for your continued participation in the worldwide Jubilee movement.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric LeCompte", is written over a light-colored rectangular background.

Eric LeCompte  
Executive Director, Jubilee USA Network

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# Jubilee Vision

*We envision a world in which we have restored relations between nations and people, a true Jubilee. One where poverty is eliminated and all meet their basic needs in their communities. A world in which families and communities have a voice in economic policies and decisions that affect their lives, a world where right relationships are restored between nations.*

**Jubilee USA Network** is part of the worldwide movement of people of faith and conscience seeking to cancel the debts of impoverished countries and work toward a responsible and just international economy. The Network includes a broad range of religious, social justice, environmental, and development organizations, as well as thousands of individuals who share a moral commitment to finding a definitive solution to the international debt crisis. The year of Jubilee proclaimed in the Hebrew Scriptures took place every fifty years. It was a time when all debts were cancelled, land was returned, and people were freed.

This vision of Jubilee calls for the building of right relationships between communities, peoples, and nations. The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. captured the essence of Jubilee best when he said,

**“Injustice anywhere represents a threat to justice everywhere.”**

In our world today international cooperation builds true security while the crisis of debt breeds instability, hopelessness, and unnecessary suffering.



We know debt cancellation works. Now it is up to us to generate the political will needed to achieve this life-affirming goal. Movements turn the impossible into the inevitable. Twenty years ago many economists, politicians, and development specialists argued that canceling the debts of impoverished nations was an impossible task given the entrenched nature of the debt and the lack of public awareness and engagement around the issue. The rising wave of people of faith contacting our elected leaders, educating the media, and reaching out to others in our communities has put this crisis on the national agenda.

## The Jubilee Movement

In the late 1990s, a broad network of people of faith and conscience from across the globe came together under the banner of Jubilee 2000, engaging their communities and challenging policy makers to address the international debt crisis. This mobilization brought the issue of debt to the global stage, but it did not end the debt crisis.



In 2005, pressure from the Jubilee movement, together with the Global Call to Action Against Poverty, again pushed the issues of debt and global poverty onto the agenda of world leaders. But once again, while significant steps were taken, the debt crisis was not ended. The imperative to finish what was started remains: to lift the excruciating burden of debt that continues to siphon resources from impoverished countries that should be used for healthcare, education, and clean water. Since 2005, the Jubilee movement has won many other victories, for example, winning gold reserves at the IMF to go back to debt relief, to rallying our supporters to help cancel millions of debt in Haiti after the devastating earthquake in 2010.



By 2012, over \$120 billion has been cancelled. As the debt crisis has spread from the Global South to the Global North, for example in Greece and Ireland, Jubilee continues to work on transforming the financial system so future debt does not accrue. We continue to push for responsible lending and borrowing. We helped found the FACT Coalition to work towards restoring revenues to nations in the Global South. We continue to push for an international debt court that removes the power imbalance between debtors and lenders. Together we will win a true Jubilee.



# Minute for Mission

*Use this guide to introduce the vision of Jubilee to your congregation.*

You may only have a few minutes to introduce the work of Jubilee USA to your congregation. As you prepare to introduce the Jubilee Sunday to your congregation, **stop and think about why you are passionate about the work of debt cancellation and global economic justice.**

Have you seen firsthand the effects of international debt and its exacerbation of poverty in the Global South? Has your advocacy work with the Jubilee movement continued to inspire you to act? **As a member of your community, your passion will inspire more than many facts and figures can.** Share a personal story of inspiration, and/or share a story like this one from the Global South:

## **The story of 12-year-old Elissa: A portrait of the many ugly realities poor countries face**

Elissa is the fourth child to Maria and Millo Masawe. The family of six lives in two small rooms on the outskirts of Dodoma, Tanzania. A small stream carries a trickle of water and sewage through their community, which has no access to potable water, indoor plumbing or sewage facilities. The fields and roads of their neighborhood are perpetually dusty. Maria sews pleats by hand on traditional indig-enous skirts. She earns 3,084 shillings (about \$2) per skirt for a job that takes 12 hours of uninter-rupted sewing. She has been getting the same price for three years from a contractor in the informal sector and says that if she doesn't do the sewing, there are many others who are willing to take her place. Millo, her husband, has no job. Maria's earnings cannot buy enough food for the family, let alone pay school fees for their children.

One Tuesday morning, Elissa, the couple's fourth child was noticed ill by her teacher in a poor com-munity school staffed by unpaid volunteers. Elissa kept rubbing her stomach and looked weak and dizzy. The teacher asked what the problem was and Elissa responded, seemingly embarrassed, "I have not eaten for two days." When the teacher asked why she had not eaten anything for two days, Elissa replied, "it hasn't been my turn yet."



Elissa and her siblings and friends at home

When the teacher pursued the matter further, she learned that Elissa's family had only one meal every day and since they could only afford so little food, the family had been divided into two groups that took turns to eat, a day apart. That day in the evening, Elissa's group was taking its turn to eat.

Today, on Jubilee Sunday, it is a time to remember the world's poor and, as people of faith, pray that we may make a difference in their lives. Our circumstance of birth is arbitrary -- none of us chose to be born in this particular country, economy, or family.

As Christians, the story of Elissa reminds us that other people are born and live in poverty by no choice of their own. But it also reminds us that we are able to do something to support those working against unjust poverty, and to take action to help change their lives for the better.

Jubilee USA Network links voices of 200 faith congregations across the country with communities in the Global South – all who believe that we can make a difference in the lives of people like Elissa. This can be done simply by having countries like the U.S. cancel the unfair debts of poor countries and adopt just economic policies that allow poor countries to invest in resources for their nations' citizens.

The Jubilee Movement receives its inspiration from the Old Testament (Lev 25: 8- 55). In the Hebrew Scriptures, God commands the Israelites to hold a Sabbath year every seven years in which the land and the people were given rest. After seven cycles of the Sabbath year, the fiftieth year was to be a year of Jubilee. In this year, unpaid debts were released and people were freed from their servitude. It was a time to return to families, restore relationships, and rejoice together.

As Christians, we do not necessarily follow all of the laws of the Hebrew Scriptures. But if we think about God's intention for the Jubilee year, we realize that it is a way for us to honor our relationships with one another in our local and global community.

Jubilee is a way to keep some people from being permanently in debt to others. It is a prescription for living in right relationship with one another. Just as Jesus ate with the poor, healed the outcast, and welcomed those labeled as sinners, we too are called to live in right relationship with our sisters and brothers around the world.

On this Jubilee Sunday, Jubilee USA asks you to link your voice with ours and those of the world's poor to call on our leaders to free the world's poor from the debt burden and to reform financial institutions so they longer produce the destructive debt cycle.

**Invite people to get more information from you or from [www.jubileeusa.org](http://www.jubileeusa.org).** Conclude with an invitation to participate in whatever action your Church is taking this weekend. Explain how people can participate by signing our Voices of Esther post cards or participating in the group photograph and letter signing that will be sent supporting Jubilee USA's platform of debt cancellation to your member of Congress. Tell your community that the same photograph will be sent to our brothers and sisters in the Global South and will link your congregation with others taking action to end poverty in their nations! Or announce another Jubilee Action event being planned in your community.

# Prayers of Intercession for Jubilee Sunday

God of Mercy,

You challenge us to feed the hungry.

We pray for those who live in poverty,

we cry out for those who are denied justice and we weep for all who are suffering.

You model for us an unceasing commitment to mercy for those who are poor.

May we too be unrelenting in our pursuit of mercy for all:

Centered in you, help us to keep hope alive in your world today.

Amen.

(from sistersofmercy.org)

St. Julia Billiard

Saint Julia, you demonstrated your love for Christ through your service for establishing justice, compassion and peace so that the World would reflect His image. You were called to work to combat poverty and illness. In our quest for Jubilee and to free our brothers and sisters fettered by the bondage of debt and poverty, we pray to you for your guidance and grace. We ask that you pray for us in our mission, for all those impoverished, and all those seeking just economic relationships. We pray that we will have the strength to one day right wrong relationships, free those who have been condemned to debt and poverty, and work towards a world that reflects the love, mercy, and justice of Christ our Lord, Amen.

## Call to Worship & Prayer

**Litany**

Leader: Let us pray;

Compassionate God, we have brought a time of oppression and broken-heartedness upon ourselves. Our own greed has led us to enslave our brothers and sisters.

**All: Transform our hearts so that we may be messengers of good news to the poor.**

L: Merciful God, you look with favor on the lowliness of your servants. Continue to show your mercy to those who need it most. Make us your instruments.

**All: Fill us with laughter and loud shouts of joy!**

L: God our Creator, you have done great things for your people. Help us to work for justice and liberty in impoverished and indebted countries in order that your comfort may find them.

**All: May we uphold what is true and hold fast to what is good.**

L: Empower us to live out Isaiah's prophecy: to bring liberty to the captives and to proclaim the Lord's favor.

**All: This is the day that the Lord has made.**

L: You are the light of the world. Your love is for everyone.

**All: Help us to embrace the love we receive from you, that comes to us through the most unlikely of the people in the most unlikely of places. Give us the strength and the desire to minister to those who struggle to live under oppressive conditions. And allow us to see your presence in our lives and in the lives of others. Amen.**

## Prayer of the Day

Lord, you sent us your only begotten son, Jesus Christ, so that the Kingdom of Heaven might once again be open. He came to free us of our sin, so that we may one day share in the light of your presence. You made each and every one of us in your image, and you ask that we serve you and do your will on Earth. But every day, this is a constant battle. Many of your children are sinned against by their brothers and sisters, left impoverished and smothered by debt. Their needs are left unfulfilled, their voices ignored by the sinners. They are your children; your light is in each and every one. You ask that we extend to one another love, dignity, and respect, but we sin against our neighbors. You ask that we share what you have blessed us with, with those who do not have, for nothing truly belongs to us. We are commanded to treat our brothers and sisters as we would treat you, and it is only by freeing them from debt and poverty that we can begin to fulfill this commandment. Please forgive these transgressions and guide us in our work for justice and equality. We ask to be blessed with this grace through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### Hymn Suggestions for Worship

The songs could be sang by the whole congregation or performed by a few or solo.

- Here I am Lord
- Eye Has Not Seen
- Call to Jubilee

# Call to Jubilee

San G. Duncan

$\text{♩} = 100$

God of the low - ly, God of Li - ber - ty.  
Grant us your bless - ing, mold us in your peace.  
Guide us from dark - ness, guide us from our fears.

5  
Call down your Jus - tice. Call for ju - bil - eel!  
Grant us your wis - dom, help our war - ring cease.  
Give us the courage to wash a - way our tears.  
Bind up the bro - ken.  
Come God of Mer - cy,  
Help us to stand and

8  
set the cap - tives free.  
break the debt - ors chains,  
fight for li - ber - ty.  
Bring in the home - less  
call down your jus - tice, on the wick - ed's claims.  
Help us to live in sol - i - dar - i - ty.  
Help the blind to see.

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2  
11  
Call out your peo - ple. Help us see our sin.  
God of the lone - ly, God of mys - ter - y,  
Help us to hear cries of cap - tiv - i - ty.  
Bring us to re - pen - tance and  
God who knows the poor in  
Help us God that we may

14  
No - ver sin a - gain.  
sol - i - dar - i - ty,  
be your Ju - bi - lee!

17

# Jubilee Sunday Sermon Notes

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

## Hebrew Scripture

Isaiah 45: 1, 4- 6

In this passage of Scripture, God wants His people to always remember that of all created things, nothing is of value apart from Him. God's deepest desire is that humans may know Him and use all created material things and gifts to advance His kingdom. God desires that material things should be used not to divide his people but to advance the common good where all human beings appreciate creation and make their way to God.

In this message, the Prophet Isaiah speaks directly to the global economic structures that marginalize the majority of the world population and benefit the few. God has blessed the earth with abundant resources, enough for all human beings to live a decent and long life. By stressing that God owns all things and nothing is above Him, Isaiah condemns those who attempt to take advantage of the poor. God is unhappy with those who seek to amass wealth while disadvantaging others. Just as this may be true within our American society, it is equally true with the international economic systems. The economically powerful countries and institutions make loans to low- income countries not to advance the well- being of the poor, but to generate financial interests and to gain political leverage over them.

In this Scripture passage, God calls all of us by name, us here in this Congregation, and those of our brothers and sisters elsewhere, be they rich or poor. He wants us to recognize one another as equals before Him, and to use material gifts to advance the common good so that together, all of us as children of God, may reach God in salvation. God wants us to be just to one another, as one human race.

## New Testament Scripture

Hebrews 4: 12- 13

In this reading, we are reminded that God created each and every one of us, and in His eyes we can conceal nothing. His word is alive and powerful, and it is important that we heed His word. If we disobey and dismiss His commandments, we may think that we can hide our sins, but this is simply impossible. For our hearts and minds reflect our sins, our ill will, our misdeeds, without a word needing to be spoken. God can see each of us and all that we do, down to our very core. This speaks directly to the international debt crisis we currently face. Our impoverished brothers and sisters are sinned against, left hungry, sick, and poor. They are abused for profits by those who are greedy and believe they owe nothing to their neighbors in poverty. They believe they can hide the sins they commit against their neighbors. We know, though, that this is impossible. God sees and understands all that the greedy do to sin against his children, and in the end, when we must stand before the Creator, there is no way to explain or hide such sin.

## **Gospel**

Mark 10: 17- 30

In this Gospel, we are asked to recognize how truly unimportant material earthly possessions are, that they will be of no use to us in our quest to gain access to the Kingdom of Heaven. There is such an emphasis in the Global North put on the importance of wealth; it is a sign of status to many. A rich man asks Jesus how he can ensure he goes to heaven, as he already follows the Ten Commandments. Jesus asserts that the man must also sell all his material possessions, and leave everything behind, as those are the things that will keep him from entering the Kingdom of Heaven. Jesus says to His disciples that it is harder for a rich man to enter Heaven than it is for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle. This analogy points to exactly how God feels about the amassing of wealth, its unequal distribution, and the unjust economic relationships from which the aforementioned emerge. We can look to this story to highlight precisely why the mission of Jubilee and debt cancellation are so important, not only because freeing our brothers and sisters is what is just and right, but also for salvation. We cannot hope to one day meet our Creator if we don't share our wealth in a way that God would see fit. Jesus tells us in this Gospel how important it is that we give up wealth to follow Him, in the best way we can. If we can do this, and be unafraid of giving up wealth, we will be greatly rewarded in the life to come.

## **For the Children**

Luke 12:13- 21

This story complements the gospel as it also discusses how material possessions are of no real use or importance. In this story, two men are arguing over inheritance, and one asks Jesus to demand the other shares. Jesus responds that there is no legitimate worth to the inheritance, it is simply unimportant. To make this point clear, Jesus tells the story of the man who stored up all his grains and goods, and had so much that he decided, instead of sharing, that he would build a bigger barn and take the rest of his life easy. God calls him a fool and says his life is to end that night and what good would his material possessions serve then? He says this is the fate of any who is rich in material wealth only.

This story is important to remember when thinking about the mission of Jubilee and debt cancellation. From an overall wealthy country of the Global North, we have saved up all of the material wealth siphoned off from the Global South and their subjugation. We store this wealth up and do not reinvest it or give it back to the countries from which it was taken. Jesus asks us to reflect on the purpose of wealth if it is just being saved and not used to do good. We are reminded that we will not live forever and when our day comes to meet our Creator, we will have to explain our behavior. Harming our brothers and sisters and committing sin against them is hardly justifiable.

We are called to recognize all that we have been blessed with, and are reminded to work for peace, love, justice, hope and equality wherever we go, and working for debt cancellation is a perfect outlet for this.

# Activities for Children and Teens

*(See Jubilee USA Network's Responsible Lending and Borrowing workshop for adults online)*

## **Introduction for both activities:**

In today's Gospel, Jesus explains that wealth is not the most important thing to gain. In fact, He asserts that the collection of wealth will most likely be harmful for us on our day of reckoning. When we meet our Creator, we will be asked what we have done to serve our brothers and sisters. If all we have done is collect wealth, and can only explain our role in hurting our brothers and sisters, it will be difficult to enter the gates of Heaven. In the story of the children, we are once again reminded that earthly riches are of no true value. These riches are especially of no value when we are done living out our time on earth. We must take this into consideration when understanding what our role as Christians is as we continue to help build a better world. We must think about relationships which are not fair or equal, seek to remedy them, and root out injustices. For if we do not spend our time doing this, and instead, spend our time collecting wealth and money, we have achieved nothing.

## ***Sharing the Wealth: Children***

Split up the participating children into three different groups. Have half of them be "poor" and have the other half be "very poor", and have about 3- 4 children be rich. Put them in groups and explain that each of them will be receiving some candy, but that it is not to be eaten right away.

Using a small candy, like Sour Patch Kids, give each of the "poor" children 3- 5 pieces and to the "very poor" children, give 1- 3. To the "rich" children, give 10- 15 pieces (depending on how many children and how much candy you have). Have the children count how many candies they have been given. Then call on a few different children to announce how much candy they have. Afterwards, ask the richest children if they would like more.

See what happens. In some cases the children may say yes, and if so, ask the poorest children to hand their candy to the "rich ones." In other cases, they may ask why they are receiving more when everyone has so few. Ideally, at the end, at least some of the "very poor" children will have no or very little candy left. Afterwards, ask children to look around at everyone's candy. Ask them what they notice, who has candy, who does not? When the children explain that some have no candy while others have many pieces, ask them if this seems fair.

Explain to them that the Lord calls on all of us to treat one another with love and respect. Those who are blessed with much are called to share what they have with those who have little. He also requires that we not take or steal from others. When the "rich" children were asked if they wanted more candy, it was taken from the "poor" children. Remind the children that there is no justice when the rich get richer and the poor get poorer. That we must remember that when we might have lots of "candy" or other needs, sometimes it means that others do not even get to have the basic things like food or shelter. Instead we must continue to share and work towards a fair society. At the end of the activity,

prompt the children to suggest that the candy be shared equally among all of them. Redistribute the candy equally among them. Then eat!

### ***Understanding the Privilege of “needs” and “luxury”: Teens***

Give each young person a piece of paper and a pen. Tell them to draw a line down the middle, and write “needs” on the left side, and “luxury” on the right side. Explain that you are going to list off a series of items, and that they must decide in which category each item goes for them to live their daily lives. Instruct them not to look at anyone else’s paper, and that it is for each individual’s personal reflection and use. Remind them to write down each word quickly, in a gut reaction – once written down you cannot re-categorize.

Begin with what most would consider “luxuries” for many in the world, both here and outside the United States. Further into the activity, list off items that are much more essential. A list has been provided, but feel free to swap out, or add, specific items.

#### **Items**

- Laptop/Computer
- Social Media
- Internet
- Cell Phone
- Text Messaging
- New clothes/ New shoes
- Car
- TV
- DVD Player
- Video Games
- Cosmetics
- Allowance/ Spending Money
- Higher Education
- Text Books/ School Supplies
- High School Education
- Elementary/ Middle School Education
- Snacks
- Your Favorite Foods
- Leisure Time
- Microwave/Refrigerator/ Stove
- Health Care (Access to medicine, doctors, etc.)
- Electricity
- Clothes/Shoes
- Shower
- Food to not be hungry
- Clean Water
- Shelter

After reading this list, ask the students to look at which items they categorized as luxuries and needs, and ask them to reflect on why they chose specific items for each category. Discuss with them how many of our brothers and sisters do not have access to ANY of the items on the list. Clean water, food, shelter, health care, etc, are all needs that are left unmet for many people.

Ask the young people if this is fair or Christian. Allow them to briefly discuss the issue. After allowing them to communicate with one another, ask if there are any items that they would like to place in a different section after looking at their categories, and at this time allow them to rearrange items.

Explain and discuss that the Global South is wrongfully indebted to the institutions and nations that have historically helped to make poverty in the Global South today. However, these nations, which have been made impoverished, are still forced to pay back debts. As a result, paying back debts becomes a priority for these countries, and infrastructure and meeting basic needs fall by the wayside. As Christians, we are called to fight these unjust economic relationships and work for a more equitable world.

# Jubilee Action

## Another World is Possible!

As part of your Jubilee Sunday service and/or as part of another event that weekend, we invite you to do a Jubilee Action activity. We encourage communities to participate in the following actions with their congregation or in another planned event:

- Have your faith community make paper chains and write messages to your members of Congress. They can be as simple as, “Support the Jubilee Act!” or “Help end poverty!”
- Organize an interfaith service, event, dialogue, fellowship or potluck that can help build local community across faith while working for global jubilee. Be sure to make paper chains at the event.

For support and other resources email [jennifer@jubileeusa.org](mailto:jennifer@jubileeusa.org), or visit our Jubilee Sunday page for more downloadable resources to help plan your successful event!

### Remember to Spread the Word about the Weekend!

This is a real opportunity to educate and energize your broader community on the issues of debt and global poverty. This weekend, people all over the world will take part in a common global action designed to grab public, political, and media attention and to make sure that this global movement is seen and heard around the world. Host a movie night in your home, or recite the Stand Up pledge in your class or workplace. Hold an educational event that raises awareness of the growing poverty in the world. Remember, your event can be as big or as small as you would like it to be – each will have an impact and each will be connected to hundreds of other communities actively calling for global justice.

Jubilee USA has many resources to use for such events. Please email [jennifer@jubileeusa.org](mailto:jennifer@jubileeusa.org) for more materials, ideas, or questions around logistics. Some suggestions of ways to help proclaim Jubilee for the world’s most impoverished:



- Let your local press know what you have planned. Many smaller local papers are glad to get information about faith communities getting involved in social justice. Even if your events seem small, many people would be glad to know what you're doing. Jubilee has resources available to help you write a press release. If you're interested, email [jennifer@jubileeusa.org](mailto:jennifer@jubileeusa.org) or call at 202- 783- 3566.
- Have your clergy share what you are doing for Jubilee Sunday at area clergy meetings. Also, many denominations are Network Council members of Jubilee USA, and some have statements about debt cancellation on their websites. You may want to print out your denomination's statement on international debt to be available for congregation members. A list of Network Council members can be found at [www.jubileeusa.org/about-us/team/network-council.html](http://www.jubileeusa.org/about-us/team/network-council.html).
- Set up a prayer corner in your church building. Pray for people in countries in need of debt relief and for world leaders who make decisions about international finance. Include pictures and short facts. Have a place for individuals to light candles and a journal to write prayers. If the prayer space is in the sanctuary, you might invite people who wish to visit the prayer station to do so at appropriate times during the service.

## Stand Up, Take Action Pledge

Leader: I ask you now to Stand Up with me against poverty and recite this pledge.

All: We stand now with millions around the world on this symbolic day to show our commitment to the fight against extreme poverty and inequality. We stand now because we refuse to accept more excuses in a world where 50,000 people die every day as a result of extreme poverty. We stand now because as people of faith we value the lives of all people. We stand now because we want our leaders to honor their promises to meet the Millennium Development Goals, and we ask them to exceed these goals.

As a Jubilee people, we are standing because we believe that debt cancellation and the creation of more just economic policies are essential to bringing an end to global poverty and renewal of right relationships between peoples.

Today and every day we will stand up and take action against poverty. We will continue to pray for those in poverty and for our world leaders. We will continue to work to fight against poverty and injustice throughout the world. We will continue to hold our leaders accountable to their promises. We stand with millions of others around the world to say:

End poverty now!

**An Action for use in a Jubilee Sunday service, interfaith event, dialogue or potluck:**

This responsive reading and prayer may be used independently or as part of your worship service or education hour on Jubilee Sunday. You may consider including it during your time of prayer, during the sending rite or announcement time, or at the beginning or end of your service. You could also replace the congregational responses with a setting of the Kyrie (Lord, have mercy...).

**Leader:** When God's people entered the Promised Land at the city of Jericho, you commanded them to sound the trumpet and cry out together and shout with a loud voice. At the sound of their cry you brought the walls crashing down. As we cry out today, linking our voices with millions of others around the world, we ask you to bring down the walls that keep people in poverty.

*(Begin ringing church bells throughout to proclaim the message beyond your walls)*

**Leader: People in our world are hungry for bread.**

People: We cry out - End poverty now!

**Leader: People in our world do not have clean water.**

People: We cry out - End poverty now!

**Leader: People in our world die every day from preventable diseases.**

People: We cry out - End poverty now!

**Leader: People in our world are separated from their homes and their families by war, violence, and economic need.**

People: We cry out - End poverty now!

**Leader: People in our world are unable to access basic education.**

People: We cry out - End poverty now!

**Leader: People in our world are being hurt by our destruction of the environment.**

People: We cry out - End poverty now!

**Leader: Let us pray... Mighty God, you have heard the cries of your people throughout history. Hear our cries now as we seek to end poverty in our world. Strengthen our voices as we continue to speak for justice. Strengthen our hands that we may continue to work for the most vulnerable in your world. Open our ears to hear the cries of those in poverty and open our mouths to speak with them. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

# Become a Jubilee Congregation



**Pray:** Commit to praying regularly for debt cancellation and economic issues. Hold a yearly Jubilee Sunday, and open or close with a prayer when you hold meetings to plan Jubilee events.



**Act:** Participate in actions organized by Jubilee USA. Hold your own educational events such as showing a movie or bringing in a speaker from the Global South.



**Support:** Jubilee congregations commit to supporting the work of Jubilee USA with one dollar per member per year or an annual offering dedicated to Jubilee USA.



**Advocate:** Jubilee congregations commit to sending one letter per member per year to elected leaders or to engage in an advocacy action proposed by Jubilee USA's national office.

## How to become a Jubilee Congregation:

1. Be in touch with the Jubilee office for support and advice as you familiarize yourself with the debt issue. They can provide local contacts and lots of ideas for getting started.
2. Approach church leaders and appropriate committees and make a proposal to become a Jubilee Congregation
3. Follow up by making a presentation to the appropriate group or committee.
4. Pick a contact person for your church to be in touch with the Jubilee office. Begin planning for events in your congregation
5. Once we receive your registration, the Jubilee office will send a Jubilee banner, a congregations handbook, and other materials.

Jubilee USA commits to being in regular contact with our Jubilee congregations and to providing resources to support the ongoing work in your community.

**When people of faith join together for a holy purpose, rooted in scripture, we can turn the tides of economic injustice, challenge harmful policies, and advance a prophetic vision of fairness, equality and hope for the world's poor. The power to create change is in our hands.**



## Sign-up Sheet to Become a Jubilee Congregation

\_\_\_ Yes, our faith community wants to become a Jubilee Congregation!

Name of Congregation: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Faith Leader: \_\_\_\_\_

Denomination: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Members: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ Website: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_

Role/Title in Congregation, if any: \_\_\_\_\_

Address (if different from above): \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Email (required): \_\_\_\_\_

Financial Commitment to Jubilee

\_\_\_ Enclosed is our Jubilee Congregation annual commitment of \$1/member: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Enclosed is the offering received for Jubilee as our annual commitment: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ We pledge to send in the proceeds of a special offering for Jubilee: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Enclosed is an additional donation to Jubilee USA Network of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Tell us about your plans to promote Jubilee in your congregation through prayer, worship, education and letter writing:

Send registration form and donation to:

Jubilee USA Network  
222 East Capitol Street NE  
Washington, DC 20003

*Thank you for becoming a Jubilee Congregation and joining us to restore right relationships and economic justice by proclaiming Jubilee! Your Jubilee banner, handbook and welcome letter will arrive within 2-4 weeks.*

Jubilee USA Network  
212 East Capitol St NE  
Washington, DC 20003  
Tel (202) 783- 3566  
Fax (202) 543- 4468  
[coord@jubileeusa.org](mailto:coord@jubileeusa.org)

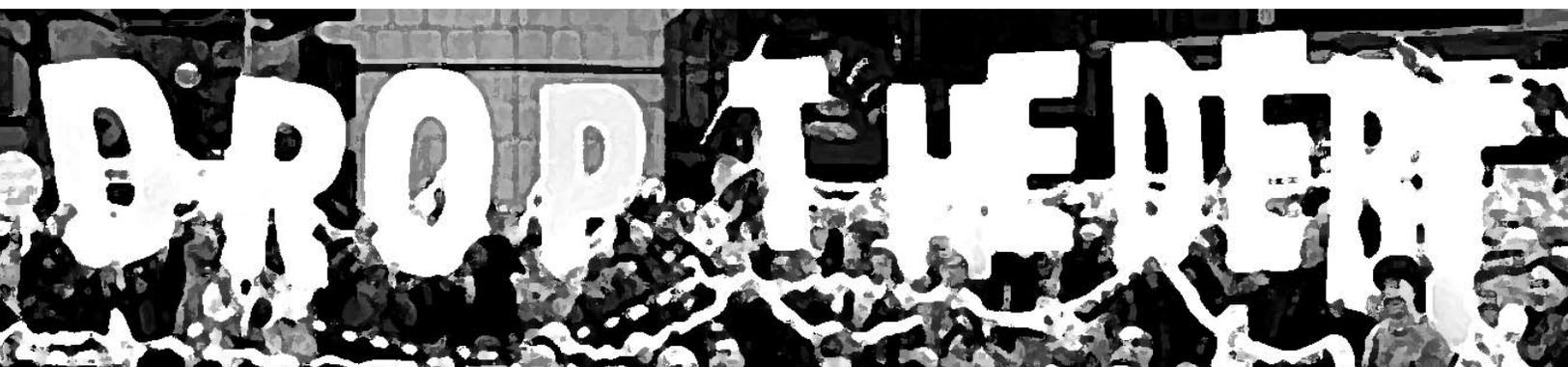
Please contact us with any questions or comments.

Author: Jeremy Weyl  
Design: Jennifer Tong



## **Jubilee USA Network**

Jubilee USA Network is an alliance of more than 75 organizations, 200 faith communities and 50 Jubilee global partners. Jubilee USA Network has won critical global financial reforms and more than \$120 billion in debt relief for the world's poorest countries.



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