

**Peace with Justice Sermon Starter**  
**Talking points offered as helpful guide on United Methodist Special Sunday**  
**by Erin Brown**

**Peace with Justice Sunday**

Genesis 1:1-2:4a

Psalm 8

2 Corinthians 13:11-13

Matthew 28:16-20

**What is Peace with Justice Sunday?**

This Special Sunday “enables The United Methodist Church to have a voice in advocating for peace and justice through a broad spectrum of programs.”

- Globally
- Locally
- Individually



**What the Bible passages tell us ...**

Humanity is a crucial part of God’s creation: We were put here to protect God’s creation.

**From Genesis 1:1-2:4a:**

And God blessed them, and God said unto them, “Be fruitful and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.”

We must also protect ourselves: Humanity is a gift.

**From Psalm 8:**

What is man that Thou art mindful of him, and the son of man that Thou dost visit him?

Our minimal responsibility is to be positive examples for one another.

**From Matthew 28:16-20:**

Go ye therefore and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Creator, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost ...”

**From 2 Corinthians 13:11-13:**

Finally, brethren, farewell. Be perfect, be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace.

**How the passages can challenge us ...**

- God *never* forgets God’s responsibility to us.
- We *sometimes* forget our responsibility to God.
- We *often* forget our responsibility to one another.

## How we can be comforted ...

We were created to love, protect, and give.

### **From Psalm 8:**

For Thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honor. Thou hast made him to have dominion over the works of Thy hands; Thou hast put all things under his feet ...”

God will guide us into service, if only we are willing to listen

### **From Matthew 28:16-20:**

“...teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you. And lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.”

God gives us the capacity to fix what is broken.

### **From 2 Corinthians 13:11-13:**

... and the God of love and peace shall be with you. Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the saints salute you.

## Peace with Justice Sunday as an opportunity ...

- Claim responsibility
  - Our responsibility to others
  - Other’s responsibilities to those around them
- Exemplify peace
  - Forgiveness
  - Acceptance
- Exemplify justice
  - Apologize
- Be an example of gracious giving.

*Editor's note:* Erin Brown is an intern at the General Board of Church & Society working on issues in Peace with Justice.