

END POVERTY 2015



A SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION AND REDEDICATION TO THE MILLENIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

**Thursday, September 25, 2008
Christ Church Cathedral
Hartford, Connecticut**

**The Rt. Rev. Laura J. Ahrens
Bishop Suffragan of Connecticut**

Prelude

The Entrance (*in silence*)

The UN Secretary General has called for September 25, 2008 to be a turning point in our efforts toward achieving The Millenium Development Goals. We need to increase our awareness, our witness and our work for the MDGs.

To mark this turning point, we begin by rededicating ourselves to God and the work God has called us to do for The Millenium Development Goals in the Name of Jesus Christ our Savior.

We pray for the one billion people who live on less than one dollar per day and to each child of God who dies every three seconds from hunger. Lead us to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger.
Lord in your mercy, ***Hear our prayer.***

We pray for the more than 100 million children who are not in school this day. Lead us to achieve universal primary education for all children.
Lord in your mercy, ***Hear our prayer.***

We pray for women who because of their gender never realize their full potential. Lead us to promote gender equality and empower women.
Lord in your mercy, ***Hear our prayer.***

We pray for those precious children under the age of five who die every three seconds due to disease caused by unclean water, sanitation and poor nutrition. Lead us to reduce child mortality.
Lord in your mercy, ***Hear our prayer.***

We pray for the more than 500,000 women who die each year from complications of pregnancy and childbirth. Lead us to improve maternal health.
Lord in your mercy, ***Hear our prayer.***

We pray for those who die each day from preventable diseases like HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis. Lead us to save lives from needless illness or death.
Lord in your mercy, ***Hear our prayer.***

We pray for our environment. Make us good stewards of your creation so that all of your children may lead productive and faithful lives. Lead us to ensure environmental sustainability.
Lord in your mercy, ***Hear our prayer.***

We pray for a fair trading system, increased international aid and debt relief for developing countries so that all peoples may realize their dreams and their potential. Lead us to create a global partnership for development.
Lord in your mercy, ***Hear our prayer.***

The people standing, the Celebrant says

Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

People:

***And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever.
Amen.***

Celebrant:

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known,
and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the
inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily
magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

People:

***Holy God
Holy and Mighty
Holy Immortal One
Transform us
That we might transform the world***

*Old Testament Reading: **Exodus 16: 2-15***

The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. The Israelites said to them, "If only we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger." Then the LORD said to Moses, "I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not. On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather on other days." So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, "In the evening you shall know that it was the LORD who brought you out of the land of Egypt, and in the morning you shall see the glory of the LORD, because he has heard your complaining against the LORD. For what are we, that you complain against us?" And Moses said, "When the LORD gives you meat to eat in the evening and your fill of bread in the morning, because the LORD has heard the complaining that you utter against him--what are we? Your complaining is not against us but against the LORD." Then Moses said to Aaron, "Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites, 'Draw near to the LORD, for he has heard your complaining.'" And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked toward the wilderness, and the glory of the LORD appeared in the cloud. The LORD spoke to Moses and said, "I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, at twilight you shall

eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the LORD your God." In the evening quails came up and covered the camp; and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, "What is it?" For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, "It is the bread that the LORD has given you to eat.

Response (*together*):

*God you created us and call us to be in this world,
part of your creative force.
In Christ you teach us the way to salvation.
Help us to live radically in a broken world.
Send your Spirit upon us that we might be
Instruments of your peace.*

New Testament: **Philippians 1: 21-27**

For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again. Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel.

Response (*together*):

*God you created us and call us to be in this world,
part of your creative force.
In Christ you teach us the way to salvation.
Help us to live radically in a broken world.
Send your Spirit upon us that we might be
Instruments of your peace.*

The Gradual Hymn (noon service only): **“Rise up, ye saints of God”**

H - 551

The Gospel: Matthew 20: 1-16

"For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

The Sermon

The Rt. Rev. Laura J. Ahrens

Prayers of the People:

As the world's leaders gather this week to address the scourge of global poverty and disease, let us pray for their work, for the people of all nations rich and poor, for the Church and the world God so loves.

For the poor, hungry and neglected all over the world; and for all people to enjoy the abundance with which God has blessed the earth; let us pray to the Lord,
Lord, hear our prayer.

For schools and centers of learning throughout the world; for those who teach and for those who seek to learn; for all who lack access to education; and for the light of knowledge to shine in the lives of all God's people; let us pray to the Lord,
Lord, hear our prayer.

For an end to the divisions and inequalities that scar God's creation, particularly the barriers to freedom faced by God's children throughout the world because of gender; and for all who have been formed in God's image to enjoy equally the blessings of creation; let us pray to the Lord,
Lord, hear our prayer.

For the health of women, children and families around the world; for an end to maternal and child mortality; and for strong and healthy families and thriving communities around the world; let us pray to the Lord,

Lord, hear our prayer.

For an end to pandemic disease throughout the world, particularly AIDS, malaria, and tuberculosis; for compassion to move the hearts of world leaders; and for hope and healing to come to communities and nations that have been destabilized by suffering; let us pray to the Lord,

Lord, hear our prayer.

For an end to the waste and desecration of God's creation; for access to the fruits of creation to be shared equally among all people; and for communities and nations to find sustenance in the fruits of the earth and the water God has given us, let us pray to the Lord,

Lord, hear our prayer.

For all nations and people who already enjoy the abundance of creation and the blessings of prosperity; for their hearts to be lifted to the needs of the poor and afflicted; and for partnerships between rich and poor for the reconciliation of the world, let us pray to the Lord,

Lord, hear our prayer.

For the departed, particularly those who have died as a result of poverty, hunger, disease, violence, or hardness of the human heart, let us pray to the Lord,

Lord, hear our prayer.

The Celebrant adds the concluding Collect:

Eternal God, in whose perfect kingdom no sword is drawn but the sword of righteousness, no strength known but the strength of love: So mightily spread abroad your Spirit, that all peoples may be gathered together and reconciled under the banner of the Prince of Peace, as children of one Father; to whom be dominion and glory, now and forever.

Amen.

Confession and Absolution

BCP p. 360

The Peace

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: ***And also with you.***

Offertory Hymn (noon service only):

“Be thou my vision”

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The Eucharist

The Great Thanksgiving – Prayer A

BCP p. 361

Hymn during Communion : “Jesu, Jesu fill us with your love”
(noon service only)

H - 602

Postcommunion Prayer:

BCP p. 366

Blessing

Celebrant May God bless you with anger at injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people, so that you may work for justice, freedom and peace in the world.

People ***Amen.***

Celebrant May God bless you with tears to shed for those who suffer from pain, rejection, and starvation, so that you may reach out your hands to comfort them and to turn their pain to joy.

People ***Amen.***

Celebrant May God bless you with enough foolishness to believe that you can make a difference in the world, so that you can do what others claim cannot be done.

People ***Amen.***

Celebrant And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you forever.

People ***Amen.***

Recessional Hymn (noon service only): “Go Forth for God”

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Dismissal

The Millennium Development Goals:

- MDG 1: Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger
- MDG 2: Achieve Universal Primary Education for Children
- MDG 3: Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women
- MDG 4: Reduce Child Mortality
- MDG 5: Improve Maternal Health
- MDG 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria, and Other Diseases
- MDG 7: Ensure Environmental Sustainability
- MDG 8: Create a Global Partnership for Development

The UN Secretary-General and the President of the UN General Assembly will convene a High-level Event on the Millennium Development Goals at UN Headquarters in New York on 25 September 2008. At the halfway point towards the target date, significant progress has been made, but urgent and increased efforts are needed by all stakeholders in order to meet the Goals by 2015. The High-level Event will be a forum for world leaders to review progress, identify gaps, and commit to concrete efforts, resources and mechanisms to bridge the gaps. By asking world leaders to announce their specific plans and proposals, the High-level Event will help accelerate implementation and follow-through. Moreover, the Event will send a message to the Doha Review Conference from the highest political level, on strengthening the global partnership for development and building consensus on financing for development.

WHAT ELSE MIGHT YOU DO?

Pray, Fast, Witness

Pray - Say propers with special intention for the extreme poor throughout the world.

Fast - Skip at least one meal in solidarity with then nearly 1 billion people who go to bed hungry each night.

Witness - Advocate for the MDGs – tell friends, write to a politician, make a difference.

What can one person, one church, one deanery, one diocese, one national church, one communion do? Let's work together to find out! Make a difference, commit to the MDGs.