Week 7-Justice

Vision and Objective:

We have all been complicit in upholding and contributing to unjust systems and practices, but we acknowledge reality, repent, and work for justice. We are called to mirror God’s heart and participate in God’s mission to make all things right in our world. Pursuing justice is integral for true flourishing.

Opening Prayer

Our Father, we come this evening to study and learn from your word for as the Psalmist said, “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path”. Please use this time that we have together as that lamp and help us to keep to the path that you have put before us. In the name of Jesus, your son, amen.

[Scripture Passage: Amos 5:4-24 NRSV](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Amos+5%3A4-24&version=NRSV)

Context & Background

Amos is a prophet, speaking on behalf of God, condemning the Israelites for not living rightly. This is during a time of relative peace, but their idolatry has led to neglect and exploitation of the poor.

Questions to Discuss:,

What are the charges? The invitations? The consequences? The promises?

Charges: Exploitation of the poor. Idolatry. Lack of Justice.

Condemnation can be avoided if they repent; stop exploitation of the poor, care for the needy.

Destruction if they do not repent.

How belief is required, not flippant attitude

The Isaelites are religious, yet God despises their religious practices. Why?

Hypocrisy of the people. Following the ritual of law but not the spirit of the law.

What does God’s anger towards the Israelites’ actions (and inaction) teach us about God’s character and view of justice?

[Justice](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A14THPoc4-4)

What connections do you see between the video and this passage?

Both talk about justice. “Repent” and be saved.

Grace=Never will be good at everything.

How do we today practice religion yet neglect justice? What would it look like to do what God values and desires from us?

Keeping underdogs down. Use marginalized people as scapegoats.

Closing Prayer

May the road rise up to meet you. May the wind be always at your back. May the sun shine warm upon your face; the rains fall soft upon your fields and until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of His hand.

*Old Gaelic blessing found at: https://www.lords-prayer-words.com/times/closing\_prayer.html*