

Worker Justice Worship Reflection and Litany

“For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body.”
I Corinthians 12:12-13

Most Christians have heard these words many times. Paul gives us a beautiful and startling image, but perhaps our familiari-

ty with his words make us unaware of their incredible consequences.

It can sometimes be difficult for members of a body who are so diverse to identify with each others' joys and sorrows. What does it mean when a worker has stayed with a company for 12 years but is still called a “temporary” worker and can receive no benefits? What does

it mean when the poultry processing plant in a small town where there are few other employment options suddenly lays off half of its workforce? What does it mean when a group of day care workers finally bargain a union contract after years of trying?

Perhaps these situations would look different to us if we heard with new ears the news that we are members of each other by our membership in the body of Christ. Our very bodies and souls are knit to each other through baptism in the Holy Spirit. Our working and dreaming are bound up in each other. We must suffer together. We must call for justice together. We must heal together. Members of the body may live drastically different lives, yet our common bonds can not be broken, even if we do not recognize those bonds. Lives of separation are ended. Let us remember our baptism into the one body and be thankful!

by Rev. Rebekah K. Jordan

Worker Justice Litany

One: Let us gather as members of one body before one God.

All: **By one Spirit we were baptized into the body of Christ.**

One: As one body, we share common hurts, common joys, and a common labor. When poultry workers' dignity is abused on the job,

All: **We all suffer with them.**

One: When a group of janitors finally get health care after months of struggle,

All: **We all rejoice with them.**

One: When health care workers are fired for trying to organize a union,

All: **We all suffer with them.**

One: When managers find the courage to call for change in their companies,

All: **We all rejoice with them.**

One: We are members of one another in the body of Christ. Let us celebrate our baptism in our worship and our living.

All: **Thanks be to God!**



*Our very bodies
and souls are knit
to each other
through baptism in
the Holy Spirit.
Our working and
dreaming are bound
up in each other.
We must suffer
together. We must
call for justice
together. We must
heal together.*

By Rev. Rebekah Jordan, United Methodist Deacon and former intern at the National Interfaith Committee for Worker Justice.