

Do Justice – BCCYC Spring 2016 Tour Scriptⁱ

Micah 6:8 He has showed you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you? but to do justice, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God.

Opening Meditation

“Ubi Caritas,” words and music by Ola Gjeilo -- ENSEMBLE

We are Exiles in this World

Miraya. In the days of the Old Testament the Babylonians captured the children of Israel and took them back to the city of Babylon. Their strategy of conquest was that after a generation or two the Jewish exiles would forget the promises of God, adopt the culture and religion of the Babylonians and never want to return to Jerusalem.

Hailey. But the Israelites never lost their religious identity. God had promised that he would deliver his people and return them to Jerusalem. They were exiles that longed in faith for their promised home.

Jasmine. In many ways today’s Christians are like the Israelites in Babylon. We are not citizens of this world, but we could be called “resident aliens” or “exiles.”

Natalie. Like the Israelites, we can’t adopt the culture of the pagan world we live in or lose our unique identity as Christians. The world around us wants us to forget that we are Christians and become like them.

Jake. The next three songs teach us that even though we are exiles in a foreign country, that God has promised that someday we will live in a heavenly Jerusalem.

Erica. While we are a wayfaring stranger that experiences many hardships in this world, we must hold on to the rock, Jesus Christ, for our sure foundation.

“With a Voice of Singing,” words and music by Martin Shaw

“Poor Wayfaring Stranger,” Traditional arranged by Victor C. Johnson

“Hold On to the Rock,” words and music by Pepper Choplin

Our Great Salvation

Chris. As Christians we have been called by God. Our salvation was provided by Jesus, God incarnate, who became flesh like us to live with us. He came as a baby, where he was laid in a feed trough for his bed and then raised by a poor family in Nazareth. Jesus moved into our neighborhood so he could have a relationship with his people.

Hannah. Although Jesus never had a home, riches or fame, he lived a life of perfect obedience to God. In death he suffered great injustice at the hands of the Roman and Jewish leaders, was sentenced in a sham trial and then executed on the cross for no legal reason.

Levi. Jesus was without sin, but in his death he paid the penalty we deserve for our sin. On the third day Jesus rose from the dead and defeated Satan and sin, and through his resurrection we also have the hope of eternal life with him.

Jeremy. We are in need of a Savior because we have sinned. Unlike Jesus, we deserve punishment and spiritual death.

Elena. But there is nothing we can do to earn our salvation. God created our salvation through his great plan of redemption that he reveals from the books of Genesis through Revelation in the Bible.

Will. God promises to accept us just as we are, dirty and sinful. The only reason why God should rescue us from our sin and spiritual death is that Jesus shed his blood on the cross for us.

“Salvation is Created” by Pavel Tschesnokoff, arranged by n. Lindsay Norden.

“Just As I Am,” words by Charlotte Elliott, music by Craig Brown and Bobby Guy

Surrendering our Lives to God--The Response to our Great Salvation

Karli. Jim Elliot was a missionary that felt called to give the gospel to unreached natives in Ecuador. In 1956, he along with his four co-workers were killed with spears as they attempted to minister to these natives.

Grace. Jim Elliot said that work dedicated to Jesus was more important than his life. He wrote in his journal: “He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose.”

Taylor. Jim Elliot’s response to his salvation was to live a life dedicated to serving God. He became a missionary so he could reach tribes that had never been reached with the Gospel. He demonstrated his love for God by his actions.

Gavin. We owe our life to our saving king, Jesus Christ. We must surrender all and give our life away to Christ.

“To Live is Christ”, words and music by Kate Wray, arranged by Michael Lawrence

“I Surrender All,” words by Judson Van de Venter, arranged by Mark Hayes

To Do Justice brings Glory to God

Becca. Micah 6:8 teaches us that God has shown us how to live and what he requires of us. God said we are to do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with our God.

Abby. The Bible teaches that “doing justice” is to show mercy and compassion to the widow, the orphan, the immigrant and the poor. These four groups, the quartet of the vulnerable, had no social power.

Allie Rittman. God says numerous times that a Christian *will* care about and be involved with the poor, the oppressed, the refugee, the immigrant, the orphan and the widow because a Christian longs to do what is important to God.

Autumn. In Proverbs we read that if you insult the poor you are insulting the Lord, but if you give to the poor you are giving to the Lord (Proverbs 14:31; 19:17). God identifies with and is the defender of the quartet of the poor, the weak, the vulnerable and the refuge.

Connor. We must work for God and do justice in His name and for His glory. As we do justice, the world will see God through us. We must never tire of doing good deeds. We must live so God can use us.

“*James 1:22*”, words and music by Jody Schnell with “To The Work” by Fanny Crosby
“*You Will Reap What you Sow*” by Pepper Choplin.
“*I’m Gonna Live So God Can Use Me,*” Spiritual arranged by Sharon Wilson

Exiles in Action

Yelena. When the Israelites were taken captive into Babylon, the *false* prophets of Israel wanted the Jews to stay out of the pagan city and not associate with the Babylonians.

Annie. The false prophets said that the only way to protect and preserve the Jews’ unique religious and cultural identity was to stay away and not establish relationships with the Babylonians.

Travis. But Jeremiah, the true prophet of God, wrote a letter that told the Israelites to move into the city, to build houses, start families and settle down in the midst of the Babylonians.

Keaton. Jeremiah wrote: “seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the LORD for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper.” (Jer. 29:7)

Stevie. God had promised to deliver his people from this foreign land, but while they were waiting for this deliverance God called them to minister to the Babylonians and seek its prosperity. They were called to do justice as exiles in a foreign land and to be the hands and feet of God to those around them.

Audrey. In the New Testament, Peter said something very similar to what the prophet Jeremiah had said. Peter called the Christians “exiles” and then told them to live in the midst of society in such a way that those that are not Christians would see their “good deeds and glorify God.” (1 Peter 2:11-12)

Mara. We glorify God by doing good works in our city, in our community and in our neighborhood. We don’t “do justice” in an attempt to earn our salvation; we “do justice” because God has first loved us and rescued us from our sin and spiritual death.

Kailee. We are created to do good works; we know that is God’s plan for our lives. Ephesians 2:8-10 states:

ALL: “⁸ For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast. ¹⁰ For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Justin. Christians are called, like the Jews were in Babylon, to engage the communities we live in and to serve them. We are not to conquer or ignore the world around us. We must do justice to earn their friendship so we can tell them about Jesus.

Britten. Our next two songs are congregational songs, and we would appreciate your singing with us.

Harold. The first song tells us that Christ willingly suffered *injustice* on the cross for our sakes so that we could be saved. You see, Christ had to be a victim of *injustice* in order to give us the ability to *do justice* for his glory. The next song teaches that we were made for more than *ordinary* lives. As Christians we were made to do more than just survive-- we were made to thrive.

Alex. A Christian life is not an ordinary life; it is a life of thriving by doing justice and serving others. We have been bought by the precious blood of Jesus Christ, and our only response is to do good works and to love those that God loves.

“This is Amazing Grace,” words and music by Jeremy Riddle, et. al. (recorded by Wickham)
“Thrive,” words and music by Mark Hall and Matthew West (recorded by Casting Crowns)

Jesus Christ, the Resurrection and the Life

Jacob. It has been said that “the Christian religion is the all-encompassing life of trusting, worshiping, following, and loving God and loving our neighbor, enabled by the regenerating and empowering work of the Holy Spirit, and established on our relationship with Christ through the gospel by grace alone through faith alone.”ⁱⁱ

Hayden. The foundation of our faith is that Jesus rose from the dead. The hope of our eternal life in heaven is the fact that Jesus lives today. Jesus said that “whoever lives and believes in me will never die.”

Leah. We know that some day each one of us in this room will die, and our prayer is that you will live and die in Christ and inherit that eternal life in heaven.

“I Will Rise,” words and music by Chris Tomlin, et. al. (recorded by Chris Tomlin)

“The Reason We Sing” words/music by Dick and Melodie Tunney

ⁱ Portions of the Script were influenced by Rev. Tim Keller’s sermons “Dong Justice and Mercy” and “Serving the City” preached in the series “Where We Are Going: The City and the Mission” in 2016 at Redeemer Prebyterian Church, NYC

ⁱⁱ Buck Parsons, *Tabletalk* June 2016 p2