

Black Friday Prayer Vigil

Seeking Justice at Walmart

For
**Dignity
& Respect**

People of Faith Standing with Walmart Workers



www.iwj.org

Prayer of Thanksgiving

We give thanks, oh God, for your provision.
We give thanks for shelter, clothes, and food.
We give thanks for family, friends and community.
And, we give thanks for spiritual sustenance.

On this day after Thanksgiving, we celebrate the time we shared with family, eating together and enjoying one another's company. We know You bless us with friends and family.

We stand here today to bear witness to Your bounty and to call upon the world's largest corporation to treat its workers with justice and fairness.

We ask You, oh God, to give the associates who work at this store patience and good humor as they face the busiest shopping day of the year. For Walmart, it is the busiest and the most profitable day. What a good day for God's people to consider how those profits are shared with workers. Bless the workers in this store – cashiers, stockers, greeters and cleaners. Bless those who work in warehouses and transport the products. Bless those up and down the supply chain, especially those working in sweatshops around the world. Millions are touched by this company. We ask You to keep their well-being in our hearts and minds.

Today, on this so-called Black Friday, we give thanks that there is enough in this world for all of humanity to live and thrive. May Walmart help it be so.

Amen.

Song: This Little Light of Mine

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine. (Repeat three times)
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

All around the neighborhood... (I'm gonna let it shine)
Even at the Walmart store...
Reaching out to shoppers...
Also in the board rooms...
Sending word to managers...
This little light of mine...



Responsive Reading

Leader: Today we give thanks for all workers who contribute so much to our society

All: We remember and honor all workers who toil to make Walmart so successful.

Leader: We remember that as we receive, we shall also give.

All: We call on the Board of directors of Walmart, the Walton family and the CEO, Mike Duke, to remember that as we receive, we must also give.

Leader: We lift up all those who shop here today.

All: That they may honor the workers who serve them and treat kindly their fellow patrons.

Leader: We are here today to place some demands upon the company's leadership. We ask Walmart to

All: Pay all U.S. Associates at least \$25,000 a year with health care benefits they can afford.

Leader: We ask Walmart to

All: Allow Associates the right to organize and work together for change.

Leader: We ask Walmart to:

All: Develop and implement a national Community Benefits Agreement.

Leader: And finally, we ask Walmart to:

All: Develop and implement a Responsible Contractor policy for all its suppliers around the world.

Leader: These requests to Walmart have been shared today across the country in front of dozens of Walmart stores.

All: May the hearts and minds of Walmart's leaders be touched and changed.

Prayers for the people

We pray for peace and courage for Walmart workers across the country as they work towards creating a work place that gives them dignity and respect. We pray for justice at the work place for Walmart workers, and all workers who don't get to share in the success and profit of the companies at which they work.

Amen.



Ending Song: Lean On Me by Bill Withers

Sometimes in our lives
We all have pain
We all have sorrow
But, if we are wise
We know that there's
always tomorrow

(Chorus 1)

**Lean on me,
when you're not strong
And I'll be your friend
I'll help you carry on
For, it won't be long
'Til I'm gonna need
Somebody to lean on**

Please, swallow your pride
If I have things
you need to borrow
For, no one can fill
those of your needs
That you won't let show

(Chorus 2)

**You just call on me brother, when you
need a hand
We all need somebody to lean on
I just might have a problem that you'll
understand
We all need somebody to lean on**

(Chorus 1) (Chorus 2)

If there is a load, you have to bear
That you can't carry
I'm right up the road
I'll share your load
If you just call me
(Chorus 1)

If you, work for Walmart
there may be things
you need to borrow
For, when you aren't paid
what you deserve,
there will be sorrow.
(Chorus 2)

God gives us a world
Full of good things,
But we must share freely
Now's, Jubilee's time
To right the wrongs
So all may have liberty.
(Chorus 1)

Call me, If you need a friend (Call me)
Call me (Call me)
If you need a friend (Call me)
If you ever need a friend (Call me)
Call me (Call me)

Please feel free to adapt any part of the prayer service to better suit your group. Switch songs, add personal reflections, or adapt prayers. Thank you for your participation. Be sure to take a few pictures of your group and email them to info@iwj.org.

