

For & Dignity & Respect

People of Faith Standing with Walmart Workers



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Black Friday 2014 Prayer Vigil

We people of faith, gather in one accord, acknowledge that God sees "...people oppressed..." and God hears "...their cry of injustice..." (Exodus 3:7-8 CBE) because of the working conditions and low wages that deprive them from fully providing their families with fair living.

We people of faith lift our voices alongside the voices of Walmart Workers acknowledging that God has sent us to end the oppression and injustice that many of our family members, friends, neighbors, parishioners and fellow human beings are experiencing within the existing working terms and conditions created to take from the needy and feed the greed of the wealthy.

God of Justice,

We lift our voices as one to implore justice, faithful love and humility. That through our imploring and toil they may become a reality in our work sites and conditions (Micah 6:8 CEB).

***We lift our voices to you oh God...
God of justice, hear our prayers.***

You devour, but you aren't satisfied; a gnawing emptiness is within you. You put something aside, but you don't keep it safe.

That which you do try to keep safe, I will give to the sword. You sow, but you don't gather. You tread down olives, but you don't anoint with oil; you tread grapes, but don't drink wine (Micah 6:14-15 CBE).

***We lift our voices oh God...
God justice, hear our prayers.***

God of Life,

You are abundantly generous. We lift our voices as one and plea for your mercy and grace, that our work place may become a place where we witness the end

of evil; that our employer-employee relationships may become a platform where justice is sought; that we may learn to do good with one another, seek justice, help the oppressed and plead for those in distress and toil (Isaiah 1:16-17 CEB).

***We lift our voices Oh God...
God of Life, hear our prayers.***

Come now, and let's settle this, says the Lord. Though your sins are like scarlet, they will be white as snow.

If they are red as crimson, they will become like wool. If you agree and obey, you will eat the best food of the land (Isaiah 1:18-19 CEB).

***We lift our voices Oh God...
God of Life, hear our prayers.***

God of Goodness,

We lift our voices in one accord with thanks giving for the dignity and respect, which you have bestowed upon all humanity. We come before you with thanks giving for placing your image and resemblance in us so that we may consider one another as you Oh God

considered us. Plentifully significant for the development of creation and societies alike (Genesis 1:26; 31 CEB).

***We lift our voices Oh God...
God of goodness, hear our prayers.***

God of power and might,
We lift our voices in thanks giving for showing us that power and might are meant to give life and sustenance to that which/whom exists and shares life with us.

We come before you in thanks giving for the right to endeavor and fight for that which is good and right, as is fair treatment for Walmart workers. Treatment that resembles respect and dignity. Treatment that resembles sustaining work terms and conditions that provide fair living for them and their families (Genesis 1:27-30 CEB).

***We lift our voices Oh God...
God of Power and might, hear our prayers.***

God,

You are our help.
We lift our our voices that employers and high ranking officials may acknowledge that associates are not means to gain and wealth (Proverbs 30:14 CEB). We pray that their objectives and goals may shift from high productivity to providing equality and freedom to associates.

We pray that that their objectives may shift from high gross income to sharing wealth with those who have helped to make such income possible and provided the right conditions to rightful living and equal opportunities to thrive and sustain their families.

***We lift our voices Oh God...
God, who is our help, hear our prayers.***

There are those— how arrogant are their eyes;

how their eyebrows are raised! There are those whose teeth are swords; their jaw is a butcher's knife, ready to devour the needy from the earth, and the poor from humanity (Proverbs 30:13-14 CEB).

I know that the Lord will take up the case of the poor and will do what is right for the needy. Yes, the righteous will give thanks to your name, and those who do right will live in your presence (Psalm 140: 12-13 CEB).

***We lift our voices Oh God...
God, who is our help, hear our prayers.***

Arise, oh God of Mercy,

Let us be delivered from disrespectful treatment. Let us be delivered from the margins of silence in which we have been kept. Let us be delivered from uncertainty and distress. Give us freedom Oh God of mercy from lacking conditions and wages.

Give us freedom from chains of inequality and disregard. Let us be free to thrive. Let us be free to provide for our families. Let us be free to leave behind stepping stones from our children that will lead into a promising future.

***We lift our voices Oh God...
God of Mercy hear our prayers.***

Don't take advantage of poor or needy workers, whether they are fellow Israelites or immigrants who live in your land or your cities.

Pay them their salary the same day, before the sun sets, because they are poor, and their very life depends on that pay, and so they don't cry out against you to the Lord. That would make you guilty (Deuteronomy 24: 14-15).

***We lift our voices Oh God...
God of Mercy hear our prayers.***

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...



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 that the Walton family and Walmart executives live up to their moral responsibility of paying workers a living wage of \$15 an hour with consistent full-time hours.

We pray for justice at the workplace 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.

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.

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.

