

Giving Thanks and Taking Action for Change this Thanksgiving

We invite individuals, families and congregations to use the attached prayer on Thanksgiving, along with the call for action to stand with retail workers on Black Friday, one of the busiest shopping days of the year. The prayer helps us all remember the contribution workers make to this celebration and the action is a simple way to help workers learn about an important resource to help them learn about their rights and improve their working conditions. Please consider using it and help us by distributing it as widely as possible.

In Peace and Solidarity,

- Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice: Creating a Just and Sacred Society (CLUE)
- Interfaith Worker Justice (IWJ)
- Moore Community House
- Mississippi Low Income Child Care Initiative.
- Labor-Religion Coalition of NYS
- Arkansas Interfaith Committee for Worker Justice
- Faith Voices Arkansas
- The Kairos Center for Religions, Rights and Social Justice
- Rev. Dr. Liz Theoharis & Larry Cox, Co Directors of The Kairos Center for Religions, Rights and Social Justice, Union Theological Seminary
- Rev. Peter Goodwin Heltzel, Ph.D., Director, Micah Institute, Associate Professor of Theology, New York Theological Seminary
- Gabriella Lettini, Ph.D., Dean of Faculty, Aurelia Henry Reinhardt Professor of Theological Ethics and Director of Studies in Public Ministry, Starr King School for the Ministry - Graduate Theological Union
- Rev. Dr. Rebecca Todd Peters, Professor Department of Religious Studies, Elon University

Our Thanks: Family, Friends, and Beyond

Spirit of Life/Most Divine/God/Beloved Community/Creator,

We give thanks. We give thanks for those of us gathered at table. We give thanks to those who bring us this day our food. We give thanks for the food farmers and workers collected. We give thanks for the hands who helped set this table: factory workers, construction workers, truck drivers, mechanics, stock people, cashiers, managers.

This Black Friday, we remember that we are not replaceable, we are priceless. We remember community and compassion can see us through the coming winter, storms and tribulations. We remember we are blessed to have each other after ages of struggle.

Optional Paragraph: *You are a God of compassion and justice, Who has taught us to pursue a more just and sacred society, built upon foundations of fairness and love. As we enjoy this delicious meal surrounded by loved ones and dear friends, we turn our hearts inward to You this Thanksgiving, Oh God, with thanks for the blessings you have bestowed upon us, so evident here on this special day.*

And we lift up Walmart workers and other low-wage workers in our nation all days but especially tonight and tomorrow as they claim their voice. We join our voice to theirs; they remind us of all that we are and all that we fight for. We give them our thanks, our love, and our support.

Amen

Standing with Walmart Workers

Walmart sets the standard for the low-wage economy. As the nation's largest employer with 1.3 million employees in every part of the country, and as the largest employer of women, black and Latino workers, the company's practices have powerful influence over other large employers across our entire country. The company's embrace of low-wage, part-time, and unpredictable work virtually guarantees this kind of work is the new normal, if not challenged.

Through [OUR Walmart](#), Walmart workers have been coming together to improve conditions, including winning an increase in base pay to \$10/hr, starting this year. But it is not enough to live on, especially for part-time workers or at Walmart's definition of full time – only 34 hours a week.

Building lasting change at Walmart

Walmart workers have built an innovative digital tool to help Walmart workers work together to organize for real, lasting change at Walmart. But we need your help to get it into their hands. [Please sign up here to join us and visit a local Walmart store on Black Friday to give worker's information about this tool. Go to \[www.BlackFridayBlitz.org\]\(http://www.BlackFridayBlitz.org\)](#)

After please share your support for Walmart workers by posting your message on social media using #WalmartStrikers. The #walmartstrikers hashtag is used throughout the year by members of OUR Walmart and supporters as they share stories and support for the people who work at Walmart.