

Calvin Worship Symposium

January 29 & 30, 2009 C4

“Worship That Renews the ‘Me’ and Transforms the ‘Us’”

Presenters: Jonathan Bradford, Jim & Rose Dekker

Rose Dekker--

Opening of Worship: “Let Justice Roll Down like Waters: A Litany of Justice with Words from the Prophet Amos”

Leader: The Lord roars from Zion and utters his voice from Jerusalem:
Thus says the Lord, for three transgressions of Israel,
and for four, I will not revoke the punishment;

**All: because they sell the righteous for silver,
and the needy for a pair of sandals—
they who trample the head of the poor into the dust of the earth,
and push the afflicted out of the way.**

Leader: Hear this word that the Lord has spoken against you,
O people of Israel, You only have I known of all the families of the earth;
Therefore I will punish you for all your iniquities.

All: Thus says the Lord to the house of Israel: Seek me and Live

Leader: Seek the Lord and live,
The one who made the Pleiades and Orion,
And turns deep darkness into the morning,
And darkens the day into night,
Who calls for the waters of the sea,
And pours them out on the surface of the earth,
The Lord is his name,
Who makes destruction flash out against the strong,
So that destruction comes upon the fortress.

**All: The strong, those who hate the one who speaks the truth.
Who trample on the poor and take from the levies of grain.**

Leader: I hate, I despise your festivals,
And I take no delight in your solemn assemblies
Take away from me the noise of your songs;
I will not listen to the melody of your harps.
But let justice roll down like waters,
And righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

**All: Lord God, we too often side with the strong
And avert our eyes from the trampling of the poor.
We, too, would seek you and live,
And let justice to roll down like waters,
And righteousness like an ever flowing stream.**

(adapted from Amos 1, 2, 3 and 5)

Call to Worship in Song: “Gather Us In,” *Sing! A New Creation*, #8

Part 1:

Jim Dekker -- A scenario of one kind of a day of worship: BAD story “on the way to church”

Scripture Reading: Jeremiah 22:13-17

Jonathan Bradford – Reflection “Knowing the Lord, *Today*”

Rose Dekker -- *Lectio divina* on Amos 5:18-24

Part 2:

Jim Dekker -- A scenario of another kind of day of worship: GOOD story “on the way to church”

Scripture Reading: II Corinthians 5:17-6:1

Jonathan Bradford -- Reflection “Transforming for the Lord, *Today*”

Discussion time—suggested themes/questions:

- Knowing God and honouring God in relationships with workers, refugees, company owners requires different conversations, attitudes. Can we all worship together in spirit and in truth? Examples? Ideas?

- What do the injustices and inequities in our societies imply about how we design church facilities, how we plan worship, what we consider worship?

- *E.g.*, church plant in Canada worships formally Sunday mornings every other week and volunteers in the community projects the other Sunday mornings.

Part 3:

Closing Reading: Isaiah 58:5-12; Luke 4:18-19

Jonathan Bradford -- Reflection “Worshipping the Lord, *Today*”

Closing Song: “Will You Come and Follow Me,” *Sing a New Creation*, #267