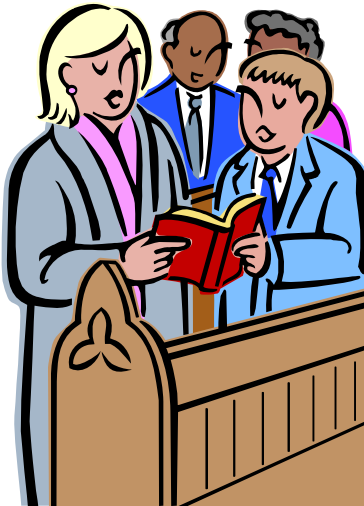


Cross Currents

Newsletter of the Haydenville Congregational Church
October 2008 *Open Hearts & Open Minds & Open Doors*

FROM THE PASTOR

In the book *Called To Be Church: The Book of Acts For a New Day*, Anthony B. Robinson and Robert W. Wall discuss how in Acts we learn about the early Christians whose lives were totally transformed by participating in a visible community of faith--a community characterized by what they authors call "resurrection practices." I like this term so much because it reminds us that Jesus' resurrection was not a one-time event frozen in history, something that happened long ago in a place far away. All of us, as Jesus' contemporary disciples, can participate in "resurrection practices." "Resurrection practices" call us to understand the resurrection has something that continues, something we are a part, something ongoing in OUR community of faith today. We can participate in the resurrection through the work of our church, the choices we make as individuals and the ways we witness with our lives. The Book of Acts describes the early Christians as those who felt personally touched by God's presence and grace--it talks about how they built up their community, shared goods, witnessed to their faith, turned away from idols, and supported and challenged each other to grow closer to God. The stories in the Book of Acts demonstrate how the early Christians tried to LIVE A NEW LIFE after they were so deeply affected by the resurrection. The idea of "resurrection practices" calls us to examine how we experience Jesus alive and present in our lives today and how we as a community are responding to his gentle hand on our shoulder and his words in our ears. Like the early Christians who experienced Jesus as with them



following his death, we too experience his guiding touch, we recall his brave witness, we read and study his words, we try to follow in his footsteps. Our "resurrection practices" are those behaviors that draw us into community to talk, sing, and pray together to deepen our

faith, those moments of connection with one another that help us through difficult times when we feel our faith is being tested and we are struggling, those times when we find the strength and the clarity to witness with our lives to the values and actions Jesus modeled for us when he walked on this earth. I experience our church as a vibrant community of faith willing to speak about our beliefs, share our doubts, support each other along the journey, carry each other when necessary, grapple with hard issues together, and take hands as we experiment, explore and experience the living Christ in

our midst, in ourselves and in each other. I believe we are alive with "resurrection practices" as a community faith--both individually and together--and that is why we are growing and the church is filled with people and activity. I think the children feel it--although they would never call it "resurrection practices!"--and I think newcomers who visit us in worship or attend a church program feel it as well. Our resurrection practices include our welcome, our willingness to struggle and stretch together, our closeness to God and to each other, even our laughter and singing rounds and fun songs in church! I love this new term that I have discovered through Robinson and Wall for it gives me a new lens through which I can explain what is happening in our church, and it gives me new clarity to encourage all the ways we are practicing the resurrection as a community! Ever onward my dear, dear ones!

Love and Blessings,

REFLECTIONS ON BLUE MOON SUNDAY



Despite the fact that our August Blue Moon Sunday fell on Labor Day Weekend, the day was a big success! Church members and friends fanned out in the community to do service projects and people had a GREAT time (just ask

Denise to see the scrapbook she made of the "garden party" at Linda and Ann's house!). Thank you project leaders for your energetic leadership and thank you to all involved in the different projects. Below are glimpses from some of the project leaders about their time doing community service in the Valley.

Our next Blue Moon Sunday is in November. Church member Lynn Fogg is organizing our Blue Moon Sunday projects now and she says, "I would love to talk to anyone interested in being a Blue Moon Sunday project leader at any point in the future and I would welcome community services ideas. Thank you!"

Worship Service at Calvin Coolidge Nursing and Rehabilitation Center

By Cherylann Richards

Ruth Loomis, Beth Howland, Phyllis Webb, Ruth Beebe, Nancy Demarais, my niece Michaela Seaman and I offered an afternoon Worship Service at the Calvin Coolidge Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Northampton. We had a very good time! We were well received and were invited to return and offer another service in the future! Thank you friends for participating.

Blue Moon Sunday at the Prison Book Project

By cmoore

Toby, cmoore, Sarah, Maddie, and Emily drove out to North Hadley to work with the Prison Book Project. We started upstairs answering prisoners' letters and choosing books that matched their requests. We had to weigh each package carefully to fit in as many books as possible without going over our 2lb limit! After a couple of hours of that we all went downstairs and wrapped the books in brown paper to be mailed out. We chose and wrapped four mail bins full of books! The PBP organizers said we were a very efficient team. Afterwards, we got an email from one of the organizers saying: "Thanks again for bringing Haydenville Congregational Church members by to work with us yesterday. You were all wonderfully focused and productive. We'd be happy to work with you again any time."

Bingo at the VA Medical Center

By Dawn Orluske

Our Blue Moon Sunday included Kris Pollard, Lois Beaty and I having some rousing games of Bingo with about 25 wonderful vets! Kris purchased canteen booklets to give away as prizes so the ladies and gentleman could put the money toward whatever they would like at the canteen. Afterwards we passed out sugar-free cookies and drinks and both the staff and vets were VERY appreciative. The recreation director even wants to come checkout HCC for herself! We were all agreed we would love to go back another Sunday as everyone had such an enjoyable time.

Cleaning Up the Meadows

By Andrea Ayvazian

Richard and Paula Spencer, Mary Vaughan, Fred and Lynn Goodhue and I covered ourselves with bug spray and sunscreen and energetically cleaned up the Meadows area in Northampton by the Oxbow. In 1.5 hours, our hearty crew hauled out: 60 + pounds of trash, one mattress, two old tires and an air conditioner. Plus we got to ride in the back of the Goodhues truck and bounce along laughing and we ate good snacks (of course!).

The "Garden Party" at Linda and Ann's House

By Dana Gillette

"Pullin' weeds, pickin' stones, we are made of dreams and bones," goes David Mallett's *Garden Song*. Although we didn't burst into song, we did burst into many rounds of hearty laughter as we a restored order to Ann and Linda's overrun garden. At the end of the day we'd gained a stronger sense of community, felt the satisfaction of work well done, and given our time and labor with generous hearts. Plus we left a well-manicured garden for Linda and Ann to enjoy!

Who knew gardening could be so much fun? The crew at Ann and Linda's was an inspired bunch. Attacking hedges with zest, taming an overgrown tree, and pulling weeds by the bushel, our day was full of joy and laughter. (Little did I know the empowerment that could come along while yielding a hedge-trimmer or I may have gone into another line of work!) Organized, encouraged and well-documented by Denise, this is one Blue Moon Sunday project that will live on in our minds and hearts.

The Food Bank Farm in Hadley

By Jackie Cloonan

It was a beautiful Sunday afternoon. A hint of summer's departing and autumn's light winds. Sixty acres of wonderful organic produce stood before us as Pastor Matilda, Cindy Drake, Barbara Estes, Mary Sheehan, Danielle Poudrier, Master Olin, and I--armed with gloves and tools--were ready to work! We weeded the herb gardens that were chock full of healthy and fragrant herbs. In the background, a field of beautiful flowers, crying out for an artists' canvas, swayed in the soft wind.

The mission of the Food Bank is to work with the community to reduce hunger and increase food security in Western Massachusetts. Services include: the Brown Bag program which gives groceries to 4,500 low-income elders in 76 sites in 51 communities. The Hadley farm harvests over 200,000 pounds of fresh produce each year. I was humbled and thankful for the opportunity to help this farm that gives so much to the residents of Western Mass.

THE GIFT OF PAIN

A Workshop for Our Church Family and Friends

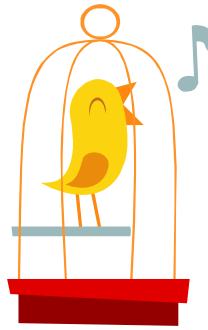


You must be deluded. How could pain in any shape, form, or way be a **gift**? But, if you look at the ancient faith traditions you will see that pain is one of the ways in which we come to God. In Christianity, Jesus

speaks of the way of the cross and our need to follow him. A modern writer called pain, "the trapdoor to enlightenment." Ann Turner will explore how we can change our ways of looking at pain and loss to something richer and more rewarding. An experienced workshop leader and presenter, Ann will use some of her own experiences as a springboard for this exploration. All church family members and friends are welcome--bring your own knowledge of what you have been through. Also bring with you some small object that you do not mind giving up that represents your central pain--the object could be from your house or from nature, it just needs to represent your pain. We will use the objects in the workshop. The workshop will be held in the Church Dining Room on Saturday, October 25 from 1 PM to 2:30 PM. If you have questions or need more information, call Ann Turner at 268.7639.

POTLUCK SUPPER, DISCUSSION AND SING-ALONG

By Jenny Ladd



Would you like to share good food, sing songs, and talk with, learn from and possibly support **South Indian activists** from the field who have been working to help bonded Dalit or untouchable women laborers gain land, education, training, and a sense of power and dignity? Krishnammal Jegannathan and two of her colleagues from LAFTI, Land for the Tillers' Freedom, will be joining Penny Schultz and the Spirit of the Hills Chorus members and Haydenville Congregational Church members for a **Potluck Supper**, discussion and singing on **Wednesday, October 15, from 6:00 to 8:30** in the Church Dining Room. Please **RSVP to Jennifer Ladd**, 413-585-0766 or jladd@jenniferladd.net. If you would like more information about LAFTI go to the Friends of LAFTI website: www.friendsoflafti.org.

A LETTER FROM DIANE GAHRES

Dear Members and Friends of the Haydenville Congregational Church,

I am a new member of the church and recently met with Pastor Andrea for guidance on health and family matters. When she informed me that I am part of a church family now and help for me was available, I was surprised and so very grateful. A caravan of vehicles and helpful, generous church members and friends showed up promptly at 10 AM on a Saturday morning helped me move (and my things went to TWO locations)--and they completed the job in about two hours! A very special THANK YOU to that wonderful group of people. I have never experienced this type of kindness and helpfulness before. I look forward to becoming an active member of the church.

Gratefully,
Diane Gahres

WELCOME THREE NEW CHURCH MEMBERS



The Haydenville Congregational Church warmly welcomes **Tony Dover, Julianna Donofrio and Francesca Piantedosi** as full members of our church. In a lovely ceremony on September 14, we spoke to, sang to and welcomed these three new folks to our warm and loving church family. Tony, Julianna and Francesca, we are so very glad that we found you and so very glad that you found us!

Massachusetts Bible Society
2008 Harrell F. Beck Lectureship

**The Trouble with Scripture:
What's So Good About the Good News?**

with the Rev. Peter J. Gomes,
Harvard University

Monday, October 20, 2008 at 7:30 PM
Helen Hills Hills Chapel, Smith College, Northampton, MA

The lecture is free and open to the public.

**CROP WALK: Communities Responding to Overcome
Poverty**

By Ellie Loomis and Deb Edwards

The Crop Walk will be held in Chester this year on October 19 at 1:00 PM. There will be a 1 or 2 mile walk that is quite level and a 3+ mile walk that is downhill and uphill. The CROP WALK is sponsored worldwide by Church World Service to benefit some of the poorest people throughout the world. AND 25% of the money raised will be given to the local Food Bank. Anyone who wants to walk or just help collect money can get an envelope from Ellie Loomis or Deb Edwards and then you ask people to sponsor you.



STANDARDS OF CARE

The 20% Theatre Company Twin Cities is proud to announce the East Coast premiere of their ground-breaking production of STANDARDS OF CARE by Massachusetts' award-winning FTM transgender playwright, Tobias K. Davis. In June, the 20% Theatre Company Twin Cities produced the world premiere of STANDARDS OF CARE at Patrick's Cabaret in Minneapolis to rave reviews and full houses each night. Smith College and UMass felt it was important to bring this poignant and timely piece to the Pioneer Valley. STANDARDS OF CARE will perform in the Mendenhall Center at Smith College in Northampton on October 2 and 3 and in the Student Union Ballroom at UMASS Amherst on October 4, with all performances at 8pm. Tickets are \$5 general admission at the door, free for students. For more information contact Tobias at: tobiask-davis@gmail.com

*Faith is not belief without proof, but trust
without reservation.*

Submitted by Phyllis Webb

THANK YOU ANONYMOUS DONOR!

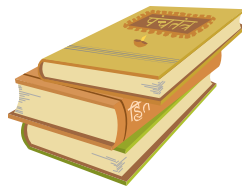


The stealth anonymous donor has struck again putting hundreds of dollars of "CREDIT" on our account at the Copy Center where we do all our printing, AND leaving books of stamps for church use hidden for us to find. Thank you, thank you, generous, appreciated, shy and remarkable anonymous donor, we are very thankful for all that you have done for the church!

BOOK OF REVELATION BIBLE STUDY

Does the book of Revelation make you wary? Are you disturbed by how Revelation has been used by some to threaten and condemn "sinners"?

Student minister Cherylann Richards will be leading a study of the Book of Revelation on 6 consecutive Friday evenings from 6:30-8:00 PM starting Friday September 19th. Come and discover the message of "Resistance to Empire" that was presented to the original readers of Revelation. Although not necessary, it might be helpful to read Revelation before the start of the study. This will allow Cherylann to adapt the study to areas people are particularly interested in.



*To laugh often and much, to win the respect of
intelligent people and the affection of children, to
earn the appreciation of honest critics and endure the
betrayal of false friends, to appreciate beauty, to find
the best in others, to leave the world a bit better,
whether by a healthy child, a garden patch...to know
even one life has breathed easier
because you have lived.
This is to have succeeded.*

Ralph Waldo Emerson
Submitted by Sue Carbin

I'VE LEARNED...

In the September Newsletter, Pastor Andrea wrote about a piece circling the globe in cyberspace that completed the sentence "I've learned." Andrea invited members of our congregation to add to the "I've learned...." list that she began in the newsletter. Below are the submissions that Val and Andrea received. Thank you Denise and Sally!

Thoughts about learning after age 60

by Sally Lemaire

I've learned that listening to the wind speaks to me in many languages.

I've learned that poetry feeds me more nutritionally than many foods.

I've learned that crawling before walking at age 62 makes many people uneasy but children enjoy the eye contact and smile with me.

I've learned that change of behavior is possible while changing our core self edges toward the impossible.

I've learned to love more deeply and freely after age 50 in ways I never thought possible.

I've learned...

by Denise Leboeuf



I've learned that I'd rather experience hurtfulness than to be the cause of it.

I've learned an easy way to make a stranger and her child smile huge, is to stop at a lemonade stand.

I've learned that no matter how tight I close my eyes and pray, celery will never taste like potato chips.

I've learned that any hurt or sadness my children feel, hurts more than any ache I have personally known.

I've learned that I will have many hardships and obstacles in life, but when I hear of another's, I always want to keep my own.

I've learned that family doesn't have to be blood related.

I've learned that I'd never appreciate all the things I love about spring, if I didn't just survive winter.

I've learned that I'm not alone in waiting for a sign. God is often waiting for one from me, too.

I've learned that seven days until Church next Sunday is a really long time.

GETTING MAD AT JESUS

By Diane Scott



The sermon of August 17 entitled Getting Mad at Jesus, based on Matthew 15:21-28, was very powerful for me. I was so moved by it. Not that this is unusual, but now that Andrea has been with us for a time now, some of the biblical passages are returning.

The first time Andrea preached on this her focus was at the level that we could all "get our heads around". Christ was willing to open his arms to someone OUT of his faith, out of his familiar flock. Just as we were doing at the time; opening our hearts and arms and minds to people that had spiritual backgrounds that looked very different from ours. We were encouraged and urged to do so, and in so doing, emulating Christ. Never a bad thing!

Now, as a congregation we have broadened our minds and strengthened our faith to a place where we can hear our minister/teacher/mentor admit and talk about being angry with Jesus! Not a place we could have gone even a year ago. Now the lesson is harder. It asks us to be Christ-like in our FORGIVENESS, a much deeper step into Christianity than just tolerance or even acceptance.

This speaks to the fact that our Christianity/spirituality is not a static thing, but a dynamic one. I never really "arrive," I keep growing. To not change, stretch, and flex my "God" muscles is to atrophy. When we do not try to grow we do not just stay the same...we regress because the rest of the world moves forward.

This is what I got out of this wonderful sermon, though I have to admit it is quite the "assignment." It is like being told you have a term paper due the day after Spring vacation!

Andrea, thanks for sharing this "different" view and trusting that we are up to the challenge.

GOOD KARMA - INSTRUCTIONS FOR LIFE

According to the Dalai Lama (2008)

Take into account that great love and great achievements involve great risk.

When you lose, don't lose the lesson.

Follow the three rules. Respect for self, Respect for others, and Responsibility for all your actions.

Remember that not getting what you want is sometimes a wonderful stroke of luck.

Learn the rules so you know how to break them properly.

Don't let a little dispute injure a great friendship.

When you realize you've made a mistake, take immediate steps to correct it.

Spend some time alone every day.

Open your arms to change, but don't let go of your values.

Remember that silence is sometimes the best answer.

Live a good, honorable life. Then when you get older and think back, you'll be able to enjoy it a second time.

A loving atmosphere in your home is the foundation for your life.

In disagreements with loved ones, deal only with the current situation. Don't bring up the past.

Share your knowledge. It's a way to achieve immortality.

Be gentle with the earth.

Once a year, go someplace you've never been before.

Remember that the best relationship is one in which your love for each other exceeds your need for each other.

Judge your success by what you had to give up in order to get it.

Approach love and cooking with reckless abandon.

OIL FEEDS THE FLAMES OF BLOODSHED AND WAR

By Jim Palermo

Religion and ethnic differences have long been identified as catalysts for social injustice, violence and war. On Thursday, September 4, however, an audience of about 50 people assembled in the church Dining Room, to hear Michael T. Klare, director of the Five College Program in Peace and World Security Studies at Hampshire College (and Pastor Andrea's significant other) make a convincing argument that America's insatiable appetite for inexpensive oil—not ethnic differences or conflicting territorial claims—is fueling the flames of war and conflict the world over.

Before showing a DVD, which shares the title of his widely acclaimed book, *Blood and Oil: The Danger and Consequences of America's Dependency on Imported Petroleum*, Professor Klare took advantage of a brief delay in the scheduled program - resulting from technical difficulties - to explain the current tensions between Georgia and Russia. The popular media explains Russia's alleged over-reaction to Georgia's incursion into South Ossetia as a muscle-flexing exercise by Russia in order to reassert its influence over territories that were once part of the former Soviet Union. But, Professor Klare believes the conflict is also related to Georgia's complicity in the United States' strategy to ensure the security of a pipeline that carries oil and natural gas from the land-locked Caspian Sea, to open ports.

The "bonus presentation" was followed by the DVD. Produced by the Media Education Foundation, it reiterated many of the points that are discussed in greater detail in Professor Klare's book. Using archival film footage, and featuring narration by Professor Klare, compelling evidence was presented, supporting his thesis that America's appetite for imported oil lubricates the mechanisms of conflict in many parts of the world, especially the Middle East and Africa. For example, Professor Klare believes that while the sustained American military presence in the Middle East is intended to maintain the level of stability needed to prevent interruptions in the flow of oil, it was also a pivotal factor that motivated Osama bin Laden to launch the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on the United States.

Many of us have advocated for lowering our dependency on oil as a means to help save our environment. Professor Klare sees not only the environment at risk, but also our hopes for worldwide peace and justice.

OCTOBER CALENDAR

- October 1:** 6 PM to 8 PM "Seasons of Our Lives" program with Phil Hall, Donique McIntosh and Andrea Ayzavian in church Dining Room
- October 2 & 3** (@Smith College) and
- October 4** (@UMass): STANDARDS OF CARE, a play by Tobias Davis will be performed at Smith and UMass (see article in this issue of the newsletter)
- October 3:** 6:30-8:00 PM Bible Study: The Book of Revelation with Cherylann Richards
- October 5:** 10:00 AM Worship Service with celebration of World Communion Sunday
SHELTER SUNDAY: special collection taken at church
- October 6:** 5:30 PM Diaconate Meeting, Church Dining Room
- October 8:** 6 PM to 8 PM "Seasons of Our Lives" program with Phil Hall, Donique McIntosh and Andrea Ayzavian
- October 10:** 6:30-8:00 PM Bible Study: The Book of Revelation with Cherylann Richards
- October 12:** 10:00 AM Men's Lay-led Worship Service
- October 13:** Indigenous Peoples' Day
- October 14:** 5:15 PM Trustees Meeting, Church Dining Room
5:30 PM Green Task Force, Children's Church upstairs
7:00 PM Safe Church Meeting, Pastor's Study
- October 15:** 6:15 to 8:30 PM Potluck Supper & Evening Program feat. Krishnammal & the Land for Tillers' Freedom (see article in this issue of the newsletter)
- October 16:** 1 PM Ladies Aid Meeting, Church Dining Room
- October 17:** 6:30-8:00 PM Bible Study: The Book of Revelation with Cherylann Richards
- October 18:** 9 AM to 2 PM **Annual Church Fair!!!!**
- October 19:** 10:00 AM Worship Service
CROP WALK begins at 1 PM at the Chester Church, see Ellie Loomis or Deb Edwards for more info.
- October 20:** 7:30 PM The Rev. Dr. Peter Gomes, Harvard University, speaks at Helen Hills Hills Chapel, Smith College (see ad in this issue of the newsletter)
- October 24:** 6:30-8:00 PM Bible Study: The Book of Revelation with Cherylann Richards
- October 25:** 1 PM to 2:30 PM "The Gift of Pain" Workshop led by Ann Turner (see article in this issue of the newsletter)
- October 26:** 10:00 AM Worship Service
- October 29:** 7 PM Shepherds' Meeting, Carol Rinehart's Home
- October 31 & Nov 1:** Massachusetts Conference of the United Church of Christ Annual Meeting in Worcester, MA. For more information: www.macucc.org or see Pastor Andrea

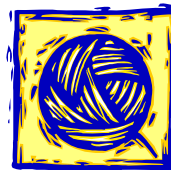


GRASSHILL GALLERY CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR

By Trish LaFreniere

Grasshill Gallery's Spectacular Christmas Craft Fair will be held in the Church Dining Room on Saturday, November 29, from 9 AM to 3 PM. Local crafters offer their best for your one-stop Christmas shopping. Many Church members participate in this great event--this is our 15th year! Organized by sisters Trish LaFreniere and Shirley Warner, the Craft Fair is friendly, warm and laid-back. Wander around the 20 or so tables of fine crafted items including original paintings, fine photography, sparkling jewelry, hand-made pottery, warm and fuzzy knitted things and quilted

items, decorations for your tree, homemade fudge...do I need to go on? Well, I could mention the homemade muffins and sweetbuns, corn chowder, (secret family recipe), sandwiches, and fabulous desserts offered for sale in the kitchen. I could tell you that this is the nicest place to linger on a cold November day when everyone who doesn't know better is at the Mall. Any questions? Call Trish (268-7254) or Shirley (268-7016).





Haydenville Congregational Church

United Church of Christ
143 Main Street, PO Box 257
Haydenville, MA 01039

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Oct 1	David Warner Brenna Ryan
Oct 2	Andrea Ayvazian & Neil Adams
Oct 3	Donna Harlan, Fred Ayvazian, Chester Cross, Alice Barber, Ileana Fournier
Oct 5	Bonnie Roberge
Oct 6	David Avakian
Oct 7	Kathy O'Connor
Oct 9	Maryanne O'Toole
Oct 10	Carlton Loomis
Oct 12	Linda Babcock
Oct 13	Mae Smith & Nicholas Elias-Gillette
Oct 14	Michael Klare
Oct 18	Amanda Wilson & Marcia Nichols
Oct 20	Ernestine Stowell
Oct 21	Alan Carbin-O'Brien
Oct 22	Bob Young
Oct 23	Brandy Mimitz & Jamie Poudrier- Drake
Oct 24	Carolyn du Bois

A LITANY FOR CHILD ADVOCATES

By Donique McIntosh

Leader: We say a prayer today, Lord, for kids whose nights are filled with the pop of a **gun** but whose **joy** never comes in the morning

Congregation: Hear our prayer

Leader: We say a prayer today, Lord, for children whose neighborhoods are **crack-infested**, who go to school and get **cracked on**, who the police want to **crack down on**, who we let **fall through the cracks**

Congregation: Hear our prayer

Leader: We say a prayer today, Lord, for children whose life ain't been **no crystal stair**, who can't climb the **so-called ladder of success**, who can't see the highway to **heaven** 'cause their **hell** is right here **on earth**

Congregation: Hear our prayer

Leader: We say a prayer today, Lord, for all the children who **want to die** because their pastor told them it's better to be an adulterer or liar than to be **gay**

Congregation: Hear our prayer

Leader: We say a prayer today, Lord, for all those children who are **seen but never heard** and those from whom we **hear but never really see**

Congregation: Hear our prayer

Leader: We say a prayer today, Lord, for the **big government with a little G** who offer children a **hand without** offering them their **hearts**

Congregation: Hear our prayer

Leader: And we say a prayer today, Lord, for each other that we would **continue** to do **justice**, to love **mercy**, and **walk with You**.

All: Hear our prayer



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