



Luke 18:1-8

(Lectionary Year C, Pentecost 22)

By Beth Barnett

Opportunity for the gathering to intercede for justice in our country and in our communities, focussing on Love Finds a Way and their advocacy.

You will need:

- Large poster of 'Advocates' by Chris Booth
- Large Poster of 'Love Makes a Way' by Chris Booth
- 10 white sticky dots with red hearts drawn on them with marker
- Print outs of each of the 10 Prayers of Intercession (see below) on a5 paper
- 10 polystyrene foam balls 2cm or 3cm diameter
- Toothpicks
- Bluetack

Time required:

5 minutes

Connect

In today's bible reading we have heard of Jesus' encouragement to pray for Justice, with strong hearts and confident faith.

In the parable Jesus tells a story of a widow, a woman who has lost all of the parts of her family who are there to love and protect her, to represent her in court.

The powerful judge doesn't respect God, doesn't respect humans. He's just selfish and doesn't want the widow bothering him. Although he isn't a good leader, the widow is given justice in the end because she was determined.

Although Jesus used his imagination to create this story, there were plenty of real corrupt judges and real needy widows that needed justice in his time.

And in our time, in our country, there are people like the widow who have not been given justice. And there are people like the judge who have plenty of legal power, but aren't using it well for granting justice.

Context

The Love Makes a Way movement have been a little like the widow, but they are advocating on behalf of other people – trying to get justice for those who have been placed in to indefinite detention – asylum seekers and refugees. They have been annoying the government by praying in the offices of Members of Parliament.

Content

Today we are going to pray for and with the Love Makes a Way Movement. We are going to pray some prayers that use the words of Jesus's story, and pray those words into our world.

Print the following 10 prayers of intercession on separate pieces of A5 paper (two per A4 sheet). Roll into cylinders of ~ 2 cm diameter, and fasten with a sticky heart dot. Set these up standing vertically on a table in front of the 'Love Makes a Way' poster. Add the foam balls as heads (use markers to make simple faces as in the poster). Stick a toothpick into the base of the polystyrene ball. Attach a small glob of Bluetack on the other end of the toothpick as a weight. Rest polystyrene 'heads' on cylinders with tooth picks inside rolls of paper. The prayers should look like more of the children in detention being released, as in the picture.

Invite members of your gathering who would like to read a prayer to come forward, choose a prayer, unstick the heart, unroll the paper and read the prayer, leading the rest of your gathering.

After the prayer, roll the paper again, fastening it with the sticker and re attaching the head. Set it in front of the 'Advocates' Poster, alongside the child in that picture.

At the end of each prayer, everyone joins together saying 'Grant Justice and Find us faithful to your ways.'



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Loving God,
You invite us to pray always and not to lose heart –
trusting that your Love makes a way.



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And so we pray that you would grant justice.



We pray for those who have no regard for God, no regard for people. We pray that their hearts and minds would be troubled by justice seekers. We pray that injustice would not rest easy in our world, in our communities. We pray for disturbances that unsettle injustice.



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We pray for those who advocate for justice, for others.
We pray for the Love makes a way movement and
those who have lent their name and time and support
to it.



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We pray for leaders with power to grant Justice. We pray that they will not be as the judge in the story - but honour You and respect all people, and be quick to hear and respond to the needs of those who cry out.



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We know that you see and hear the arrogant and foolish words of those who are unjust, and you also see and hear your chosen ones who cry to you day and night.



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We look forward to the day when you come Lord Jesus and set all things to right – everything complete in justice.



We pray that we would use our energy for pursuing what is right and be worn out with seeking Justice for all.



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We pray that you would find us, and all your church faithful – faithful to your ways of love, compassion and justice.



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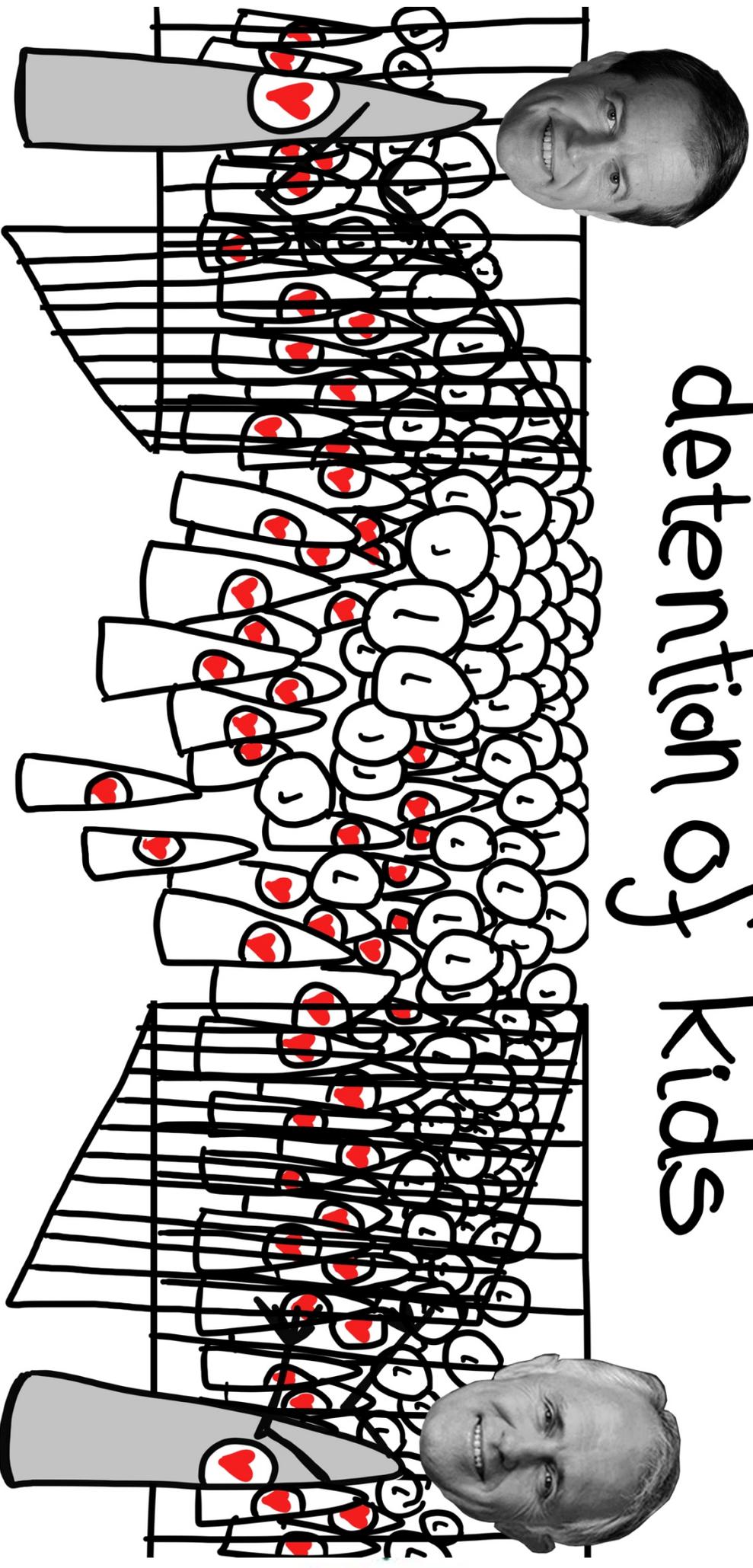
Lord Jesus we know that you are looking for those of faith on the earth who would put that faith into action, and dare to disturb and disrupt injustice, demonstrate and demand your good ways of justice for all.



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A true leader will end
detention of kids



#LoveMakesAWay

