



March 9, 2008

Fifth Sunday of Lent

## **We Cannot Rest on Remembering**

*Prayer for Amistad Sunday*

Out of the depths we cry to you, O God,  
because the injustice in our world is too much to behold and bear.  
We cry out for those who are abused, enslaved, raped and treated as less than your children. We cry out for our brothers and sisters who are weak, exploited, suffering and upon whom unspeakable acts of violence are committed daily.  
We cry out to you for the children of our world who go hungry for no reason at all when we possess the means to feed them all.

Today, we cry out to you to move us from despair about the challenges in our lives and world and to empower us to bring your Divine love to all in need. O God, in the words of the Psalmist hear our voices; be attentive to our prayers.

On this day when we commemorate the Amistad Event and the 53 captives held aboard it ... we pause to give you thanks for their faith, legacy and inspiration.

We remember also the faithful believers of our church who took up the Amistad cause and fought to secure the inalienable rights that are endowed by you.

And yet, O God we know that we cannot rest on remembering because you call upon each and every one of us to act to make a difference in our world today.

Lord, if we are to respond to the challenges of our world we need you to move us with your Holy Spirit, the same spirit that charged the Amistad captives to stand up for the freedom that was rightly theirs.

God, we are your people and this is your church; you challenge us to act as your presence in this world: in a world groping in the night of despair you've given to your church the Light of hope to shine. In a world where people are living behind walls that divide and doors that are locked you've given your church the Keys to the Kingdom to unlock those doors.

God, we give you thanks for the gift of our Savior Jesus Christ, whose love and compassion gives us strength for today and hope for tomorrow and in whose name we lift this prayer. Amen.

**We Cannot Rest on Remembering** was written by the Rev. Dr. Bernard R. Wilson, Senior Minister of Norfield Congregational Church, United Church of Christ of Weston, Connecticut.



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