

“The Call to Justice”

Acts 11:1-18; Revelation 21:1-6; John 13:31-35

Sebastian M. Kulwicki
Confirmand

May 15, 2022

From the Pulpit

The First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ
444 East Broad Street, Columbus, OH 43215

Phone: 614.228.1741 Fax: 614.461.1741

Email: home@first-church.org

Website: <http://www.first-church.org>

A confirmation meditation delivered by Confirmand, Sebastian M. Kulwicki, The First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, Columbus Ohio, May 15th 2022, dedicated to my fellow confirmands, Class leaders, Jacqueline Dean, and Johnathan Miller, Director of Christian Education, Mr Mark Williams, My squad, Amy Wagner, Marty Worth, Bev Cook, Carol Galliger, Barb Clapham, Pat Patterson, Annette McCormick, and Lynn Wallich, and finally The Rev. Dr. Tim Ahrens, my pastor, my mentor and most importantly, my best friend.

“The Call to Justice”

Acts 11:1-18; Revelation 21:1-6; John 13:31-35

+++++

Let us pray: Come Holy Spirit, Open to us, the treasure of thy wisdom, feed the hungry, ransom our prisoners, raise up the sick, comfort the faint hearted, Amen.

+++++

What exactly is justice? Does it mean dressing up as a bat and taking down a crazy clown with your butler? Or is it flying through the city with a red cape and stopping your billionaire arch nemesis? Let’s look at the definition of justice— The quality of being fair and reasonable, or, just behavior or treatment. Now you may say that “I can’t help bring justice, I’m not like Batman or Superman.” The thing is you don’t have to have the ability to fly, cling to walls, or wear a super

high tech bat suit. The only power you need is the ability to use your words and actions to make a change.

From what I've seen on the news for the last two years, words and actions make an impact on your community and maybe in the world. But there have been people in history who use their words to persuade people to do their "justice." A certain figure in power who used his words to bring "justice" to his country, was responsible for killing 6 million Jewish brothers and sisters, simply because they were Jewish. This is not an example of justice. This is an example of a greedy man trying to use his words to gain power. Let's talk about an actual example of justice. Recently, Russian president, Vladimir Putin, has been responsible for killing thousands of people in Ukraine, in a completely unnecessary war campaign. While the people in Ukraine have been fighting there, here in America, we've been calling for the end of the war and justice for the people of Ukraine, and the end of Putin's tyranny. This is what Jesus would've wanted from his followers. Simple people trying to make a change in their community and bring justice. Something I've learned over the years, is that you don't need to be a person with super powers to help out in your community, and that Spider-Man would beat Batman in a fight, but that's debatable.

There's multiple examples of justice in the Bible and the Gospel. I guess you could say Jesus was a Marvel or DC hero. Hear me out, he does have awesome super powers and abilities. I mean he can heal people, which is pretty awesome. Jesus also has the ability to turn the elements of hydrogen and oxygen into wine. Not only can he turn water into wine, but he can walk on it. But with all these powers, he still didn't use them for evil. Instead he uses them to spread messages of love and justice to his followers, who we call the disciples. He

also gives us multiple examples of how we can bring justice to our community, so when he was eventually crucified by the villains, the Romans, we would take on the mantle of spreading his message of love and justice all around the world. Unfortunately there are some people around the world who use his messages of love to spread hate on different groups of people and limit their rights, making him and his father look like villains. This is the reason he calls us to do good for the Lord. This is our call to justice from him.

Simple things could bring justice to every community. For example, standing up for the oppressed, speaking out when others have lost their voice, or simply listening to someone's troubles and being a friend. As people of faith, we are called, in Micah 6:8, to "Do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with God." In other words, you don't need to be bitten by a radio active spider, get caught in a catastrophic lab accident, or destroy the multiverse, and though it may seem like the world's problems are as heavy as Thor's hammer, you don't have to be able to lift it all at once. The call to justice isn't a giant bat symbol in the sky. It's the desire to do better and to love your neighbor and care for the least of these. It's deciding to walk with Jesus on the path to a better world. The call to justice has been dispatched, so its up to you. Will you answer?