

A sermon delivered by Wahu Kaara, executive director of the Kenya Debt Relief Network, at The First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, Columbus, Ohio, Easter 4, April 13, 2008, and dedicated to the glory of God!

“Covenanting For Justice”
John 10, 1-11

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Let us pray: We come before thee oh Almighty God thanking you for this day, the gift of life that you have given us and the blessing of being together to hear your word together in this sanctuary. Let it be you speaking to your people and help me but to be your vessel for your people to hear you speak to them for your glory, for this I believe and trust in Jesus’ name. Amen.

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I stand before you today not by coincidence or accident but because it is the will of God for me to speak to you for His glory. I speak to you in this sermon because God has allowed all His people in the world to have liberty, just like the scripture we have read from Leviticus 25 has told us and teaches us. This scripture is also affirmed very strongly and deeply by the scripture we have read from John 10, in particular John 10:10, where our Lord affirms life in abundance for all of us. This is the message that is key to our times today when our world is caught between

two challenges that threaten our lives – poverty and climate change.

We must confess these two problems as sins of omission and commission as people who believe and trust our savior Jesus Christ. This is because they are our own creation; because of our greed that drives our economic activities for selfish interests that benefit just a few people at the expense of many of us. Their greed cannot be satisfied for they are just wants and not needs!

We must be courageous enough to say no to this economic framework that produces overproduction for overconsumption from this part of the world – the so-called developed world – and underproduction for underconsumption from the part of the world I come from – the so-called developing or underdeveloped world!

We must be ready to speak TRUTH to power for JUSTICE FOR ALL, and proclaim “Jubilee” for God's people to break the chains of poverty and take good stewardship of nature and our environment. I would be happy knowing that this same church that stood up for the abolition of slavery, is standing up for the slavery of today: for debt cancellation, aid without conditionality and just trade.

This is the only way to proclaim Jubilee, which I have proclaimed for myself, my country, Kenya, my continent, Africa, and I am doing it here in this sanctuary. This is because I believe we were all created in God's image to manifest His glory! Our God is not a

God of poverty, helplessness, hopelessness or despair!
He is a God of justice and life in abundance, and today
we are here because we are celebrating Jubilee for all.

We all must be in charge of our lives, by having
our means and decision-making determine our own
destiny, our own way, as God has blessed us all in
different ways. Our diversity is our strength and not
our weakness if we appreciate the greatest
commandment of love! We shall be able to appreciate
each other and restore our relationships to be in
harmony across continents, between countries and
among people at all levels, for justice is for all of us.
Justice will give us equity in all matters of life, putting
value of life primary, and not profit.

This is the message that the Lord has allowed us
for today so that none of us shall ever say that they
did not hear! Justice for all is the truth we must speak
to power, proclaiming Jubilee and life abundance for
all of us. Thanks be to God! Amen.

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