

Resources For Worship and Sermon Preparation on or Around Labor Day Weekend

United Methodist Pastor and Past ICWJ Board Member Marianne Cotter compiled these **intriguing historical resources** for Labor Day. Faith Outreach Coordinator, Grace Shockman made recent additions in 2021. Contact caleigh@workerjustice.org to add further resources.

RESOURCES FOR LUTHERANS

1. 1991 Resolution on Worker's Rights
<http://www.elca.org/What-We-Believe/Social-Issues/Resolutions/1991/CA91,-p-,06,-p-,35-Workers-Rights.aspx>
2. 1999 Social Statement of ELCA "Sufficient, Sustainable Livelihood for All":
<http://www.elca.org/What-We-Believe/Social-Issues/Social-Statements/Economic-Life.aspx>
3. Lutheran Resources for Worker Justice (Edited by Wayne Stumme)
http://www.wpusa.org/Interfaith-Council/Resources_Lutheran.pdf
4. Dignity of Work:
https://www.lutheranworld.org/sites/default/files/Doc-56-Dignity_of_Work-EN-low.pdf
5. A Labor Day message from ELCA presiding bishop Elizabeth Eaton:
<https://elca.org/News-and-Events/8057>

RESOURCES FOR AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPALIAN CHURCH:

1. African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church (AMEZ): "The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church calls on employers to Recognize the rights of workers to organize and bargain collectively... and the right of their employees to choose freely whether to unionize or not without intimidation or coercion. Furthermore, the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church calls for the United States Government to address specific labor issues on the state level by affirming support for the organizing and the collective bargaining rights of state employees." (A Statement on Behalf of Workers, 2007)
2. About A. Philip Randolph:
<http://ame-sac.org/ames-in-history/a-philip-randolph/>
3. Pan-Methodist Resources:
<https://nmcdn.io/e186d21f8c7946a19faed23c3da2f0da/a29f2f1c37e543079c60fb7823277a44/files/resources/labor-day-weekend-resources/protestant-resources/Pan-Methodist12.pdf>

RESOURCES FOR UNITED METHODISTS

1. Read the Social Creed in worship. For more information, go to <http://www.umc-gbcs.org>.
2. Social Principles- The Rights of Workers: <https://www.umcjustice.org/who-we-are/social-principles-and-resolutions/rights-of-workers-4135>
3. Use the 1908 Methodist Social Creed in worship. [Methodist Resources for Labor Day](#)
4. Read Walter Rauschenbusch's "Prayer For Immigrants" or "Prayer For Employers" (1910 Pilgrim Press) in worship. [Methodist Resources for Labor Day](#)
5. Include paragraph 73B of the Social Principles in your Labor Day worship (in written or oral form): "Collective Bargaining. We support the right of public and private employees and employers to organize for collective bargaining into unions and the groups of their own choosing. Further, we support the right of both parties to protection in so doing, and their responsibility to bargain in good faith within the framework of the public interest."
6. Select from the sermon resources in the attached Methodist resource document in your Labor Day message. These connect the social issues in the period leading up to the first Methodist Social Creed with our current situation.
 - A. [Sermons and the shaping of northern Methodist identities 1885-1905](#) by Kevin Newburg, Drew University, 2009.
 - B. [City Missions and Social Problems](#) by Frank Mason North *The Methodist Review*, March/April LXXV, 5th Series Vol. IX, p. 228.
 - C. [Suggestions for Social Topics: Some Remarks on the 8 hour day](#) by Richard Ely, *Christian Advocate*, November 1, 1891; 66: 46.

RESOURCES FOR CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN:

1. Ruth the Farm Worker: <https://blog.brethren.org/2015/ruth-the-farmworker/>
2. Denominational Stances on living out Christian Faith: <https://www.brethren.org/about/beliefs/>
3. Simple Living and Consumer Culture: <https://blog.brethren.org/2020/simple-living-and-consumer-culture/>
4. Racial inequality, Economic Injustice, and the Pandemic: <https://blog.brethren.org/2020/racial-inequality-economic-injustice-and-the-pandemic/>
5. Economic Peace: <https://blog.brethren.org/2020/economic-peace/>

RESOURCES FOR REFORMED CHURCH (UCC)

1. [The Good Samaritan and Social Redemption](#) - Sermon by Alfred Nevins Sayers from *The Reformed Church Pulpit*, edited by Frederick K. Stamm, New York: The MacMillan Company, 1928.

2. [Christianity's Stake in the Social Situation](#) - Sermon by Harry Emerson Fosdick from *The Hope of the World*, New York: Harper and Brothers, 1933.
3. [A New Heart for the Nation](#) Sermon by Washington Gladden 1918, excerpts.
4. Supporting Unions:
https://www.ucc.org/justice_worker-justice_unions_whysupportunions/
5. Justice for Workers in their Workplace:
https://www.ucc.org/justice_worker-justice/
6. Global Ministries Statement Regarding Immigration Issues:
https://www.globalministries.org/global_ministries_statement_regarding_immigration_issues_10_10_2014_16/
7. Resolution Affirming Democratic Principles in an Emerging Global Economy:
<http://uccfiles.com/synod/resolutions/AFFIRMING-DEMOCRATIC-PRINCIPLES-IN-AN-EMERGING-GLOBAL-ECONOMY.pdf>

RESOURCES FOR PRESBYTERIAN CHURCHES:

1. God's Work in Our Hands: Employment, Community, and Christian Vocation:
<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/resource/gods-work-our-hands-employment-community/>
2. Connecting to the Creed:
<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/wp-content/uploads/1-connectingtothecreed-2008.pdf>
3. Presbyterian Resources for Worker Justice:
<https://nmcldn.io/e186d21f8c7946a19faed23c3da2f0da/a29f2f1c37e543079c60fb7823277a44/files/resources/labor-day-weekend-resources/protestant-resources/PresbyResource.pdf>
4. Resolution on Just Globalization: Justice, Ownership, and Accountability:
https://www.pcusa.org/site_media/media/uploads/_resolutions/resolution-on-just-globalization.pdf
5. Presbyterians and Labor: A Partnership Across Decades:
<https://reflections.yale.edu/article/seize-day-vocation-calling-work/presbyterians-and-labor-partnership-across-decades>

RESOURCES FOR MENNONITE CHURCHES:

1. Article 6: Creation and Calling of Human Beings:
<https://www.mennoniteusa.org/who-are-mennonites/what-we-believe/confession-of-faith/creation-and-calling-of-human-beings/>
2. Article 21: Christian Stewardship:
<https://www.mennoniteusa.org/who-are-mennonites/what-we-believe/confession-of-faith/christian-stewardship/>

RESOURCES FOR CATHOLIC CHURCHES:

1. Instruction on Christian Freedom and Liberation (Libertatis Nuntius):
https://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/congregations/cfaith/documents/rc_con_cf_aith_doc_19840806_theology-liberation_en.html
2. Encyclical Letter On the Conditions of the Working Class (Rerum Novarum):
http://www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiii/en/encyclicals/documents/hf_l-xiii_enc_15051891_rerum-novarum.html
3. On Reconstructing the Social Order (Quadragesimo Anno):
http://www.vatican.va/content/pius-xi/en/encyclicals/documents/hf_p-xi_enc_19310515_quadragesimo-anno.html
4. On Human Work (Laborem Exercens):
http://www.vatican.va/content/john-paul-ii/en/encyclicals/documents/hf_jp-ii_enc_14091981_laborem-exercens.html
5. On the Hundredth Anniversary of Rerum Novarum (Centesimus Annus):
http://www.vatican.va/content/john-paul-ii/en/encyclicals/documents/hf_jp-ii_enc_01051991_centesimus-annus.html
6. Brothers and Sisters to Us: U.S. Bishops' Pastoral Letter on Racism in Our Day:
<https://www.usccb.org/committees/african-american-affairs/brothers-and-sisters-us>
7. On Christianity and Social Progress (Mater et Magistra):
http://www.vatican.va/content/john-xxiii/en/encyclicals/documents/hf_j-xxiii_enc_15051961_mater.html
8. USCCB: The Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers:
<https://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/what-we-believe/catholic-social-teaching/the-dignity-of-work-and-the-rights-of-workers>
9. USCCB: Video Resources: <https://youtu.be/G2G8jGOva7Y>

RESOURCES FOR QUAKER COMMUNITIES:

1. Workers' Rights:
<https://www.quakersintheworld.org/quakers-in-action/169/Workers-Rights>
2. God Has No Hands on Earth but Ours:
<https://www.friendsjournal.org/god-has-no-hands-earth-ours/>
3. Guide to Quaker Practice:
<https://fsmn.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/GuidetoQuakerPractice.pdf>
4. Coming Down from That Tree:
<https://www.friendsjournal.org/coming-down-from-that-tree/>
5. Immigrant Workers Excluded from COVID Relief:
<https://www.afsc.org/blogs/news-and-commentary/millions-immigrants-are-being-left-out-coronavirus-relief>

RESOURCES FOR UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS:

1. Working for a Just Economic Community:
<https://www.uua.org/action/statements/working-just-economic-community>
2. Economic Justice Resource Page: <https://www.uua.org/economic>
3. There is Power in Union:
https://www.uua.org/files/documents/mcemrysaaron/power_union.pdf

RESOURCES FOR BAPTISTS:

1. American Baptist Resolution on Labor:
<https://www.abc-usa.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/LABOR.pdf>
2. Labor Day: More Than Summer's End:
<https://www.baptistpress.com/resource-library/news/labor-day-more-than-summer-end/>

RESOURCES FOR MORAVIANS:

1. Resolutions of the Moravian Church-Northern Province on Social Issues (pgs. 30, 42-43, 48-49, 97-99, 106-107):
<https://www.moravian.org/northern/wp-content/uploads/sites/5/2019/07/Resolutions-on-Social-Issues-2018-edition.pdf>
2. Moravian Catechism (pgs. 8, 19-21, 34):
<https://www.moravian.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/2020-Final-Approved-Catechism-for-posting.pdf>
3. The Book of Order of the Moravian Church- Northern Province (200, 201, 1096):
<https://www.moravian.org/northern/wp-content/uploads/sites/5/2018/09/2018-Northern-Province-Book-of-Order.pdf>

RESOURCES FOR EPISCOPALIAN CHURCHES:

- Reform Labor Laws to Protect Collective Bargaining Rights:
https://episcopalarchives.org/cgi-bin/acts/acts_resolution-complete.pl?resolution=2009-D039
- Reaffirm the Rights of Workers to Organize and Form Unions:
https://episcopalarchives.org/cgi-bin/acts/acts_resolution.pl?resolution=2006-C008
- Support Worker Unions and a Living Wage:
https://episcopalarchives.org/cgi-bin/acts/acts_resolution.pl?resolution=2006-D047
- The Episcopal Network for Economic Justice:
<http://www.enej.org/resources.htm>

