

## **Commemoration of the Fifth Anniversary of the Postville Immigration Raid of May 12, 2008**

(Brief history of the Postville raid. Use YouTube video if possible.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UGdvv4dwzIA> – Guatemala villages – Postville connection)

**Opening Song:**           “Open My Eyes”   *by Jesse Manibusan*

Open my eyes, Lord. Help me to see your face.  
Open my eyes, Lord help me to see.

Open my ears, Lord. Help me to hear your voice  
Open my ears, Lord. Help me to hear.

Open my heart, Lord. Help me to love like you.  
Open my heart, Lord. Help me to love.

I live within you. Deep in your heart, O Love  
I live within you. Rest now in me.

**Opening Prayer:**

May the One who blessed our ancestors,  
Abraham, Isaac and Jacob,  
Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel and Leah,  
Bring healing to our relationships . . .  
A healing of the soul and a healing of the body,  
A healing of the mind and a healing of the spirit.

Since five long years have passed, we need to remember  
the shock, the fear, the shame, the crushing injustices of Postville.

We stand as witnesses, to a rush of events that shattered lives, crushed hopes and  
scattered families.

We pray for all men, women and children who were affected by the raid,  
wherever they may now be.

We pray for their safety after the mindless violence experienced by our brothers and sisters,  
who were in search of honest work, eager for new beginnings and prepared to play a role in  
creating a better world.

We seek to join with all people, organizations and institutions working to reframe national  
policies affecting the lives of immigrants.

Give us the courage to stand with those earnestly seeking immigration reforms.  
Help us to fashion, support and pass wise, humane and just legislation.  
Bring to conversion those who built walls of hatred and discrimination.

In the power of our loving God and in companionship with one another, may we find what is  
needed to create a new heaven, and a new Earth. Amen.

**Reading: Leviticus 19:33-34**

When a stranger lives with you in your land, do not mistreat such a one. You shall treat the stranger who lives with you no differently than the natives born among you. You shall love the stranger as yourself for you too were once strangers in the land of Egypt.

**Response:** “Gather Your People” by Bob Hurd

Refrain: Gather your people, O God. Gather your people, O God. One bread, one body, one spirit of love. Gather your people, O God.

1. We are parts of the body of Christ, needing each other, each of the gifts the Spirit provides.

Refrain:.

**Reading: Jeremiah 22:3**

Thus says our God: Do what is right and just. Rescue the ones who have been wronged from the hands of their oppressors. Do not exploit the stranger, the orphan, the widow, and do not shed innocent blood in this place.

Refrain: Gather your people, O God. Gather your people, O God. One bread, one body, one spirit of love. Gather your people, O God.

2. No more harm on the mountain of God; swords into plowshares. Free us, O God, from hardness of heart.

Refrain:

**Litany of Remembrance:**

***We have not forgotten!***

*We gather in solidarity with the 389 men and women who were arrested and with the many more who were affected by the Postville raid.*

***We have not forgotten!***

*We gather to remember the Postville raid, symbolic of extreme measures taken to enforce an unjust and inhumane immigration policy.*

***We have not forgotten!***

*We gather in solidarity with those throughout the United States who work to create, pass and implement legislation that is enlightened, just, compassionate and expressive of the highest ideals and best hopes of our nation.*

***We have not forgotten!***

*We gather in prayer as people of faith, confident that a better future awaits; a future free of fear, hatred, discrimination and injustice.*

***We have not forgotten!***

Rigoberto Menchu, when she visited Postville in the fall of 2008, challenged those present with the words, "You should not rest until justice is done." And so we pray in solidarity:

***We shall not rest until justice is done.***

*For those whose blood has been shed in cruel oppression, violence and persecution, that they will know our love and care -*

***We shall not rest....***

*For those forced to abandon their homes and families in search of a more secure future, education and employment, that they will find a place to call home –*

***We shall not rest....***

*For the families, children and other dependents of migrant workers, that their needs of body, mind and spirit will be met –*

***We shall not rest....***

*For lawmakers charged with governance on behalf of the weak and vulnerable, that they will find courage, wisdom and strength for advocacy –*

***We shall not rest....***

*For employers and corporations, that they will value the dignity and worth of workers over the quest for profit and power –*

***We shall not rest....***

**Closing Song: "Christ, Be Our Light" by Bernadette Farrell**

1. Longing for peace, our world is troubled. Longing for hope, many despair.  
Your word alone has power to save us. Make us your living voice.

Refrain: Christ, be our light. Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.  
Christ, be our light. Shine in your church gathered today.

2. Many the gifts, many the people, many the hearts that yearn to belong.  
Let us be servants to one another, making your kingdom come.

Refrain: