Litany for Farmworkers from Refugee & Immigration Ministries

Disciples Refugee & Immigration Ministries (RIM), a ministry of Disciples Home Missions, is one of many ministries supported through our annual Easter Offering. RIM strengthens our congregational work among refugees, immigrants, asylum seekers, and farm workers. This year kicks off our 50th year of partnership, as the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) with National Farm Worker Ministry (NFWM). NFWM builds relationships for justice through fair working and housing conditions around the U.S. with communities who perform the essential work to grow and harvest the food we all eat.

As Disciples, we especially celebrate the work of heroes like Rev. Garnett Day, whose vision and commitment to farmworkers over many decades led us as Disciples into being one of five denominations that were original founders of NFWM—now 50 years ago! From the beginning, Rev. Garnett Day has known: “Farm workers have always been among the country’s most exploited and oppressed working groups...(and) people of faith believe the farm worker movement for economic and social justice is the work of God in our time.”

With gratefulness for the work of Rev. Garnett Day and so many other Disciples through the years, let us join together in this prayer for farm worker justice:

Leader: God, for too often enjoying the food in our hands without remembering the hands that have grown it,
All: We ask You call us to attention for those willing to work among the rows each day, Lord.

Leader: For so long reaping the fruits of others’ labors in our mouths without using our mouths to pray for those who harvest our fruits,
All: We raise our voices now to honor all who work daily among vineyards and orchards, God.
Leader: For farm worker brothers and sisters who report suffering frequent wage and physical abuses in the fields,
All: Help us join their cries to ask and work for justice.

Leader: In response to your request that we seek mercy for the neglected and to give love to the vulnerable,
All: We seek your strength to renew our courage to build solidarity and love with farmworkers who make possible the bread and wine of the sacrament, and every feast on our tables. Amen.