Rev. Dr. Lisa Renee Sherman

Title: "Justice for the Marginalized: A Gospel Imperative"

Dear Church Family,

One of the most powerful themes throughout Scripture is God's heart for justice—particularly for the poor, the oppressed, the stranger, and the marginalized. From the cries of the prophets to the ministry of Jesus, we see over and over again that God is not silent in the face of injustice. He acts. And He calls His people to do the same.

In Micah 6:8, the Lord reminds us: *"He has shown you, O man, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God."*

Justice is not merely a political idea—it is a spiritual calling. It means recognizing the inherent dignity and worth of every person, made in the image of God. It means listening to voices that are often silenced. It means standing alongside those who suffer from systemic inequality, discrimination, or economic hardship—not as saviors, but as brothers and sisters.

Jesus modeled this perfectly. He reached out to the Samaritan woman, healed the outcast lepers, defended the woman caught in adultery, and dined with sinners and tax collectors. He didn't avoid the marginalized—He welcomed them.

As a church, we are called to embody this same spirit of justice. This may look like:

- Supporting ministries that serve the homeless or the incarcerated
- Advocating for fair housing and education in our communities
- Listening to the stories of people who have been ignored or misunderstood
- Praying not just for peace, but for justice to roll on like a river (Amos 5:24)

We cannot claim to follow Christ and yet turn a blind eye to the suffering around us. Justice is not a side issue—it is at the heart of the Gospel. As we grow in faith, let us also grow in compassion, action, and courage to stand where Jesus stands.

Let us be a church that not only proclaims the love of God but demonstrates it—especially to those who have been left out, pushed aside, or forgotten.