



## *Worship Resources for January 9, 2011 Human Trafficking Awareness Sunday*

Human trafficking, sometimes called modern-day slavery, affects all of our lives and communities. Some of the food we eat may be harvested or prepared by women and men whose labor comes with a heavy price to them. They may be in debt bondage or their identification papers confiscated to prevent them from leaving or reporting abuse to the authorities. A house down the street may be a place where young women and girls are taken to be sexually exploited. Runaway teenagers are preyed upon by traffickers who target vulnerable people.

Our churches can be part of efforts to end human trafficking by become educated about what is going on in their own communities and connecting with those who work to end such violations of human rights.

Begin by including these worship resources in your service on January 9, 2011. (This is the Sunday closest to Human Trafficking Awareness Day which is January 11 each year.) They were prepared by the Rev. Sarah Haas, Associate Pastor of Friedens United Church of Christ in Indianapolis and Co-founder of United Against Contemporary Trafficking (U-ACT) which is based in Indianapolis.

Visit: <http://unitedagainstcontemporarytrafficking.blogspot.com/>

*For more information on human trafficking and how the United Church of Christ and Common Global Ministries are engaged, go to: <http://www.ucc.org/justice/womens-issues/human-trafficking.html>*

**PRAYER** (to stand on its own or be made part of a Pastoral Prayer)

Maker of the heavens and the earth, we rejoice in you and we cry out to you from the depths of our hearts.

We thank you for each of your precious and beloved children.

We thank you that each of your sons and daughters is created with worth and value.

We ask your forgiveness when our actions put any of your children in harm's way.

We ask your forgiveness for our greed, our selfishness, and our complacency, which have led to the sin of human trafficking and modern-day slavery.

God of liberation, we pray for your freedom and justice  
for all who are oppressed and all who are held captive.

God of transformation,  
we pray for your healing.

God of hope,  
we know all things are possible through you.

Please fill us with your Spirit, that we may be people of courageous compassion who follow in the ways of Christ and join in your work for a peaceable community for all. **Amen.**

*By the Rev. Sarah Haas, Associate Pastor of Friedens UCC, Indianapolis, IN*

### LITANY

One: Gracious and Glorious God,  
we give you thanks for allowing us to come before you with all our prayers.

**All: We seek your justice and your truth.**

One: When we learn about human trafficking and modern-day slavery,  
we feel filled with despair, confusion, sadness, and fear.

**All: We seek your guidance and your strength.**

One: When we realize that our choices and our purchases  
contribute to the destruction of life,  
we cannot find words to express our grief.

**All: We seek your mercy and your healing.**

One: Mighty and Miraculous God, we know that you are a God of liberation.  
We know you are able to open a way when there seems to be no way.  
We ask for transformed hearts and minds.

We ask for wisdom to live in ways  
that bless all your precious and beloved children.

**All: Please fill us with your Spirit  
that we may have courage to speak up.  
Please help us to trust you, and to follow  
in the radical ways of peace made known by your Son. Amen.**

*By the Rev. Sarah Haas, Associate Pastor of Friedens UCC, Indianapolis, IN*