



*"Non-cooperation with evil is as much a moral obligation as the cooperation with good."*

—Martin Luther King

## WHO ARE WE?

We are a small group of Christians, brought together by our time living at the Occupy Wall Street protest. The following is our statement of solidarity with Occupy Faith:

*There is much talk these days of consensus, but we believe in the strength and correctness of our God-given diversity. We have diversity of cultures, diversity of gifts, and so a diversity of tactics will be the winning plan.*

*The simplicity of God's will for all living things is so basic and fundamental, that it is crushed by the complexity and moral ambiguity of all the man-made systems that have plagued the earth for so long now.*

*Where all spirit-led movements coincide, is where the true will of God lies—let us show the world the truth we hold up between us.*

*Let us end systems of power, and allow to grow systems of diversity and beauty. Let us end mankind's misguided quest for monoculture.*

*Then God will return the earth to Heavenly balance.*

*Occupy Faith.*

*Contact us with your ideas and questions:*

GENERAL INQUIRIES:  
[sebastianows@hotmail.com](mailto:sebastianows@hotmail.com)

SCHEDULING: [cafeeny@yahoo.com](mailto:cafeeny@yahoo.com)

LITURGICAL SUPPORT AND INPUT:  
[matthewlcarson@gmail.com](mailto:matthewlcarson@gmail.com)

# WHY OCCUPY CHRISTMAS?





*The people that walked in  
darkness have seen a great light;  
those who lived in a land of deep  
darkness—on them a light has shined...  
For the yoke of their burden and the bar  
across their shoulders, the rod of their  
oppressors you have broken.*

—Isaiah 9, verses 2 and 4

This familiar reading from Isaiah, commonly heard around the Christmas season, speaks to us all, as God's people, in this time and this place. The American people are sensing the depths of their darkness, crying out under their burdens of home foreclosure and joblessness, and the rod of the police. It is time for the Church to answer these calls, to unequivocally stand in service and solidarity with the poor and the oppressed.

In his 1967 Christmas Eve sermon, Martin Luther King said, "If there is to be peace on Earth and goodwill towards [all], we must finally believe in the ultimate morality of the universe and believe that all reality hinges on moral foundations." Unfortunately, in the American Church tradition, our Christ Mass no longer reflects that moral imperative. It has instead become co-opted by the markets and media, a co-optation enabled by a centuries-old commingling with the Roman Empire's feast day of the birth of Sol Invictus (Unconquered Sun).

The darkness we walk in tries to block our eyes on the very day we profess to be seeking our great light in Jesus Christ. For too many, Christmas is a time when those with heaviest burdens feel them most profoundly, as those with privilege seek shelter behind their closed doors and in their big-box gifts.

So, please join us. We feel that the Church and the Occupy movement have much to learn from, and much to do with, each other. The movement is the collective outcry of all God's people under the weight of the American Empire's yoke. We invite you to our Christ Mass as we seek to follow Christ boldly into the streets, where he would have us go.

## THE PLAN

We will host a 24-hour prayer vigil in Zuccotti Park (or Liberty Square, as we prefer to call it) that will open with a midnight service on Christmas Eve, and continue throughout the day, closing with a ceremony at midnight on Christmas Day. We invite congregations and leaders from faiths and Churches throughout the city to design the way in which they would like to come together with the Occupy community, by creating a service that reflects the unique beauty of their own community.

*Bring yourselves, your congregations,  
your families, your choirs, your teachers,  
and above all, your love.*

A detailed schedule will be constructed based on your responses and offerings.

**We need specific help with the following:**

- Food
- Care packages
- Sermons and readings
- Musical offerings
- Equipment
- (chairs, bibles, candles, prayer/kneeling pads, etc.)