

## A Celebration of Workers

Song: Bread and Roses

A Call to Prayer: We come together to celebrate the dedication and commitment of our workers and to thank all who provide so many important services for us everyday. We ask blessings upon them and on their families as we reflect together on the dignity and the importance of our workers.

Sacred Writings: Let us reflect on some of these special thoughts from our faith traditions on the importance of work and the dignity of workers.

### The Sacredness of Work

Hindu—Bhagavad-gita Text 50 A person engaged in dedicated service through work is detached from both good and bad actions. Strive for yoga, Arjuna. It is the art of all work.

### The Dignity of Work

Buddhism—Mahasatipatthana Sutta (On Obstacles to Be Overcome) When laziness is present, the worker knows it. When laziness is not present, the worker knows it. The worker knows how to avoid this and to take pride in the work created with dignity, and calm, and peacefulness.

### Justice at Work

Islam—Allah says do not take away from people what is their due (Al-Araf 7:85); Woe to those who give less than what the worker is due (Al-Mutaffifin 83:1-3); Do not burden workers beyond their capacity; and, if you do burden them, help them (Al-Bukhari)

### Creativity Expressed Through Work

Judaeo Christian—Exodus 35:30 to 34 "Moses spoke to the Israelites and said, "The Lord has chosen Bezalel, son of Uri, son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah. The Lord has filled him with a divine spirit of skill and understanding and knowledge in a diversity of crafts. He has mastered embroidery. He can create things of gold, silver, and bronze. He is skilled in cutting and mounting valuable stones and in wood

carvings. The Lord has given to him and also to Oholiab, son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan, the great skill to teach others.

(Sacred Writings adapted by John J. McNamara)

Reflection On the Dignity of Work

Silent Meditation

Song: Saanson\_Ki\_male\_pe\_simún\_main\_pee\_ka\_naan (from the Hindu tradition)

Intercessions: Let us respond from the depth of our unique faith tradition

We pray for justice for all who give service to our community through their work...

We pray for all who are being exploited by those whose only motive is profit and greed...

We pray for all those who are discriminated against as they seek employment...

We pray for the strengthening of our families through the creation of safe working conditions for all of our workers...

We pray for our ability to accept refugees from other countries who work beside us...

We pray for all employers in thanksgiving for their kindness and care for their workers....

We pray for our religious and political leaders as they work to give support for the dignity of work and the fulfillment of workers...

Give us strength to work together with others from diverse traditions and backgrounds to end all discrimination against workers...

Do not let our enthusiasm and energy wane as we struggle to achieve justice for all workers...

Concluding Prayer: We join our thoughts and prayers together for all of our workers and their families. We ask for renewal and strengthening for them in their daily work. May they continue to realize the importance of what they do and may

they always feel our support and deep regard for all they give to our human family.

Final Song: Prayer\_of\_St.\_Francis

Additional Music Options:

Solidarity\_Forever

The\_Ballad\_of\_Joe\_Hill

Shakuhachi Honkyoku (Buddhist Tradition)

Nasheeds (Islamic)