

A LITANY AND PRAYER FOR THE FAMILIES OF THE JENA 6

Sunday, September 17, 2007

Leader

Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations, and we know your faithfulness endures to all generations. A voice is heard in Jena, Louisiana, lamentation and bitter weeping and once again, our children wonder "is there not justice in the land?"

The People

Bryant Purvis, Jesse Beard, Carwin Jones, Theodore Shaw, Robert Bailey, Jr and Mychal Bell, now known as the Jena 6 stand before the unrighteous courts of this land – a symbol of a new generation's reminder never to forget the things of old - the tree, the noose, the unreachable bail, the three hour trial of a kangaroo court – guilty as charged and sentenced – maximum term – as American as apple pie.

Leader

We will not be silenced. I will sing of your steadfast love, O Lord, forever, with my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations. We walk in the path and light of Joseph Cinque and the Amistad.

The People

We will not be silenced. We remember the Scottsboro boys and the lynchings of old.

Leader

We will not be silenced. We honor the memory of Emmett Till and the Birmingham Four Little Girls ~Denise McNair, Carole Robertson, Cynthia Wesley and Addie May Collins.

The People

We will not be silenced. We stand with the righteous steadfastness of Angela Davis, The Wilmington 10 and Nelson Mandela and the Rivonia Six.

Leader

"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." We will not be silenced. In unity we stand and we pray for your Holy protection and power upon the Jena 6 and the thousands of children incarcerated in adult prisons.

The People

Yes, Lord of our weary years and our silent tears, we will not be silenced for we know through all generations, from Ramah to Jena, Your same Spirit, that convicted our beloved ancestors, Rosa Parks, Fannie Lou Hamer, Medgar Evers, Malcolm X, Martin Luther King, and so many others, runs through our veins.

Leader

The children wonder is there no justice in the land? The sleeping giant is reawakening! Blow the trumpet in Zion! Stand in righteous unity! Light the candle of justice.

All

We will not be silenced, Oh Lord. Forever, with our mouths, we will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations. Your justice will not be denied. And the Lord said, "Take away from me the noise of your songs...let justice roll down like water, and righteousness like an ever flowing stream."