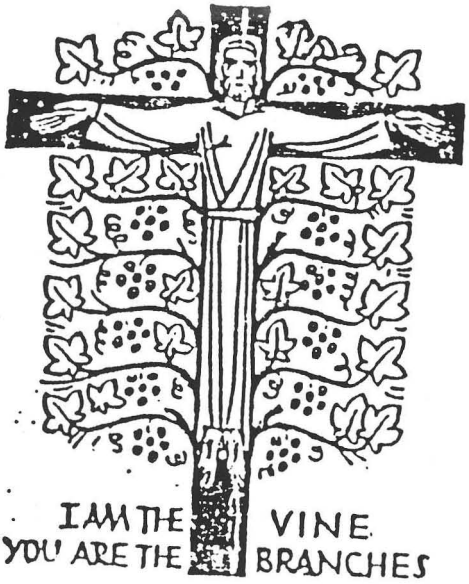
SOWETO SUNDAY
June 20, 1993

Today we commemorate the lives of some 800 black children who were killed by apartheid bullets in 1976 following the June 16 peaceful protest for better education. Some of the South Africans now living and working in the Seattle community are in exile here because of their opposition to apartheid at the time of the Soweto massacre. Sadly, since 1976 thousands more children all over Southern Africa have been killed by apartheid violence. Yes, despite premature reports of its demise, apartheid continues, and Nelson Mandela still cannot vote.

Our faith in our Redeemer, Jesus Christ, leads us to action to assure the dignity of all God's children.



A litany for the world we live in

Leader: For exploiter and exploited; for persecutor and persecuted; for oppressor and oppressed; for criminal and victim, God of perfect love, we pray.

People: As we pray, remove the fear that makes us strident and vengeful, and take away the woolliness of thought that makes us sentimental.

Leader: Give us clear eyes to see the world as it is and ourselves and all people as we are; but give us hope to go on believing in the possibility of what you intend all of us to be.

People: We pray for children growing up with no sense of beauty, no feeling for what is good or bad, no knowledge of you and your love in Christ.

Leader: We pray for men and women who have lost faith and given up hope; for governments who crush people's spirits, and for governments slow to act in the cause of justice, freedom and development.

People: We pray for the whole church and the world, giving thanks for your goodness, for your love, made known in Christ, for your truth confirmed in his death and resurrection, for your promises to us and to all people, keeping hope alive in spite of our failure and rebellion.

All: Let us go to our work and into our relationships stimulated by hope, strengthened by faith, directed by love, to play our part in the liberation of all people, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

(From UCC prayers, Eastern Cape, South Africa)

PLEDGE OF COMMITMENT

WE PLEDGE: to tell the truth about the evil of apartheid in South Africa;
WE PLEDGE: to offer increased support to the people of South Africa in their struggle;
WE PLEDGE: to speak the truth of justice in our churches;
WE PLEDGE: to fight racism, sexism, and economic injustices in our own society;
WE PLEDGE: to challenge our social and political structures to send clear messages to the South African government; We will not as a nation tolerate apartheid.

(from Kairos pledge)

[Adapted from materials provided by the Southern Africa Network of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America]

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Our Father, we thank you for the blessings of life and health you bestow upon us. We pray for all who suffer under apartheid, that their burden of oppression be lifted. We pray for strength for all who are working to end apartheid and create a democratic South Africa. We pray for President Clinton and our U.S. Congress to join more actively in the struggle for racial and economic justice both in South Africa and in the United States. We pray that all our actions to end apartheid be done in love and to uplift and glorify Your Holy Name. AMEN.

LET US PRAY TOGETHER:

A PRAYER FOR AFRICA

God bless Africa,
Guard her peoples,
Guide her rulers,
And grant her peace.

AMEN.

TASK FORCE ON SOUTHERN AFRICA,
CHURCH COUNCIL OF GREATER SEATTLE

We meet the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall of Central Lutheran Church, 1710 - 11th Avenue on Capitol Hill. **ALL ARE WELCOME AND ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND.** You may call 281-7664 or 364-1540 for more information.