

# *In the Wake of Katrina: Lest We Forget ... Call To Renewal*

*For we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard. - Acts 4:20 (NIV)*

## **LITANY**

### **We Will Repair the Breach: A Litany in Memoriam of the Anniversary of Hurricane Katrina On the Coast of the Gulf of Mexico, U.S.A.**

**Leader:** The storms had names – Katrina, Rita, Wilma – but the faces of the storms were on every newscast – the underbelly of a nation’s sin: our broken responsibility for the least among us.

**People:** We will repair the breach; we will raise the foundations again; we will restore the streets and make them livable again<sup>1</sup>.

**Leader:** They left trails of heartaches and tears, our houses and our hopes shattered.

**People:** We will repair the breach; we will raise the foundations again; we will restore the streets and make them livable again.

**Leader:** We saw the deaths: mostly poor, mostly very elderly, mostly very young, mostly people of color; as also we saw the scattering. Who will respond?

**People:** We will repair the breach; we will raise the foundations again; we will restore the streets and make them livable again.

**Leader:** Years of neglect floated up in the floods that followed, uncovered our shame as a nation.

**People:** And we are witnesses.

**Leader:** We vexed the poor and needy,<sup>2</sup> robbing them of dignity and looting them of pride.

**People:** And we are witnesses.

**Leader:** Walk lightly in the streets where our kin have floated into history; the streets are sacred, as also are the memories.

**People:** We will honor the lives of the dead and the living by acting in justice.

**Leader:** Speak softly in the bars where our kin have disappeared; the music is holy, as also are the memories.

**People:** We will honor the lives of the dead and the living by acting in justice.

**Leader:** We have been charged to repair the walls, to stand in the gaping holes of our society; to cry out and to do justice.

**People:** We will repair the breach; we will raise the foundations again; we will restore the streets and make them livable again.

*In Remembrance of the Natural and National Disasters that Hit the Gulf Coast and their Aftermaths*

*Prepared for the Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference, Inc. by Valerie Bridgeman Davis, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Old Testament/Homiletics and Worship, Memphis Theological Seminary, August 27, 2006. ©2006*

---

<sup>1</sup>Based on Isaiah 58:12

<sup>2</sup>Based on Ezekiel 22:29

