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Central Congregational Church  
"For the Glory of God and the Good of our Neighbors"  
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### Prayer, Mission and Justice

Amos 5:18-24

Series: (Re)Discovering the Power of Persistent Prayer

#### Central Passage

**Amos 5:18–24 (ESV)** — **18** Woe to you who desire the day of the LORD! Why would you have the day of the LORD? It is darkness, and not light, **19** as if a man fled from a lion, and a bear met him, or went into the house and leaned his hand against the wall, and a serpent bit him. **20** Is not the day of the LORD darkness, and not light, and gloom with no brightness in it? **21** "I hate, I despise your feasts, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies. **22** Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them; and the peace offerings of your fattened animals, I will not look upon them. **23** Take away from me the noise of your songs; to the melody of your harps I will not listen. **24** But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

**Central Thought:** Any religious activity, including prayer, that doesn't consistently connect us to the mission of Jesus is religious self-talk at best and idolatrous at worst.

#### The Mission of Jesus is...

**Luke 4:16–21 (ESV)** — **16** And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. And as was his custom, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and he stood up to read. **17** And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written, **18** "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, **19** to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." **20** And he rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. **21** And he began to say to them, "Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

#### Your Notes

#### Homework

- ❖ Continue reading Red Moon Rising.
- ❖ Prayerfully reflect on the two passages above, and ask God to lead you into prayer and action that is more in line with the mission of Jesus.