

Civil Disobedience and the Planet – What Would Jesus Do?

All summer long, hundreds of activists from many different groups have been doing their nonviolent best to disrupt business as usual at Citigroup’s global headquarters in lower Manhattan. During this “Summer of Heat,” we’ve been drawing attention to Citi’s record of financing fossil-fuel extraction and infrastructure worldwide. According to 2024’s [Banking on Climate Chaos](#) report, Citi has poured \$396 billion into the industry since 2016, when the Paris Climate Accords were signed.

Our actions have been staged thematically throughout the summer. We’ve had Scientists’ Week, Elders Week, Gulf South Solidarity Week; we’ve had teach-ins, die-ins, and family days; and at one point, Citi was even “attacked” by orca whales. And we had Faith Week. As that familiar offertory prayer says, we’re trying to “dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that You have made.”

For many of us, faith has suffused the whole summer, not just Faith Week—and not just Christian faith, of course. We follow in the footsteps of Dr. King, Gandhi, and countless other people of faith by peacefully submitting to arrest for blocking the building’s doors (sometimes by chaining ourselves to them). I and many colleagues believe this is what Jesus calls us to do at this crucial moment.

Of course, we don’t face the official brutality the Freedom Riders confronted. The NYPD is respectful, almost gentle, with us. We’re in jail for a few hours and end up with violations, not criminal charges—the equivalent of a traffic ticket. But these actions give us the opportunity to bear prophetic witness and to do what I believe Jesus would do.

Join us – search for summerofheat.org.

Pat Almonrode







