

HOME CHURCH

FOR REFLECTION AND DISCUSSION:

Trinity Sunday, Psalm 8:5-6; Romans 8:26; Ephesians 2:14-15

1. Think of the most difficult conversations you've had in your life. What elements at play made them difficult? Talk about it...
2. According to the authors of "Crucial Conversations", a crucial conversation is defined as "A discussion between two or more people where the stakes are high, opinions vary, and emotions run strong." What happens when we avoid these?
3. Read and reflect on Ephesians 2:14-15. What are you seeing and hearing in this passage for us? For you?
4. Have you wept deeply (or teared up) in response to something? When was that? What moved you? What emotions came with those tears?
5. Read Romans 8:26-27. Talk about it...
6. As a church, how can we become more anti-racist? What work should we be doing as a community? What does honouring cultures vs. making them power idols look like?
7. What has this focus brought up in you (not just if you've experienced prejudice, but what about unnamed prejudices or fears?)

PRAYER:

JUNE 7, 2020

TRINITY SUNDAY

"I CAN'T BREATHE" *Lament, Learning, Love*

Pastor Shel spoke on Pentecost Sunday that "Breath" is one aspect of God's Spirit in all people. We spoke of the murder of George Floyd and how racism seeks to choke or diminish that God-given breath and image of God in others. It fears the loss of control. Being committed to everyone's flourishing as followers of Jesus, we asked what we must offer and do in response to racism. We build on this with Lament, Learning, and Spirit-Empowered Love Revolution.

Psalm 8:5-6 (CEB)

You've made them only slightly less than divine,
crowning them with glory and grandeur.
You've let them rule over your handiwork,
putting everything under their feet—

Romans 8:26 (CEB)

In the same way, the Spirit comes to help our weakness. We don't know what we should pray, but the Spirit himself pleads our case with unexpressed groans.

Ephesians 2:14-15 (CEB)

Christ is our peace. He made both Jews and Gentiles into one group. With his body, he broke down the barrier of hatred that divided us. He cancelled the detailed rules of the Law so that he could create one new person out of the two groups, making peace.

OPENING AND REVIEW OF LAST WEEKEND

EXPOSING THE STORIES OF IDENTITIES THAT DRIVE DIVISION AND DEHUMANIZATION

Ephesians 2:14-15

- People are concerned that another's power is always to their disadvantage. They see everything in terms of a finite or limited win/lose game.
- Thinking this way is always looking to draw a tight circle around those you think are more for you *instead* of expanding the circle and seeing that power can grow and be shared in an infinite way.
- The Jesus-way views power differently...

ON THREE KINDS OF RACISM David Fitch, John McWhorter

1. Individual

2. Systemic

3. Ideological

LAMENT - CHARISMATIC TEARS - NAMING AND GRIEVING INJUSTICE AND LOSS,
A type of Holy Spirit, Jesus-Spirit, path of empowerment in Community. *Romans 8:26*
Lament is understood to be a gateway to personal and corporate liberation from the powers of sin and empire

Lament as part of repentance (turning) is *part of the Christian journey of holiness*. It is never finished in this life. Speaking of this aspect of theosis, Lossky writes, "These charismatic tears, which are the consummation of repentance are at the same time the first-fruits of infinite joy: 'Blessed are ye that weep now: for ye shall laugh.' Tears purify our nature, for repentance is not merely our effort, our anguish, but is also the resplendent gift of the Holy Spirit, penetrating and transforming our hearts."

IN SUMMARY, PULLING IT TOGETHER