

Sunday Service: June 14, 2020

"Are You Sitting Uncomfortably?"



The job of the prophet is to make God's word plain, to speak the truth, and to name injustice, whether or not folks listen or agree! The prophet often tells us what we don't want to hear – that if we continue along our current path, things are going to get worse – unless we change. Those kinds of words can make folks feel uncomfortable, even mad. And when folks get angry, they often do something!

Since false prophets can stir up folks to do bad things, we must test the intent of the prophets: Do they care for the poor; for those in prison; do they seek justice?

Just think of all the movements that have made our nation better: abolition, suffrage, fair labor laws, and civil rights. These movements were led by prophets such as: Sojourner Truth, Fredrick Douglass, Susan B. Anthony, Woody Guthrie, FannieLou Hammer and MLK.

At the time these prophets did their work, they were neither loved nor respected. They were vilified for speaking the truth that no one wanted to hear. But their prophetic proclamations were part of the solution! The prophet is a necessary part of the corrective process. We must listen! We must want to be healed!

Link to YouTube Service: *Not yet posted*

1. GATHERING



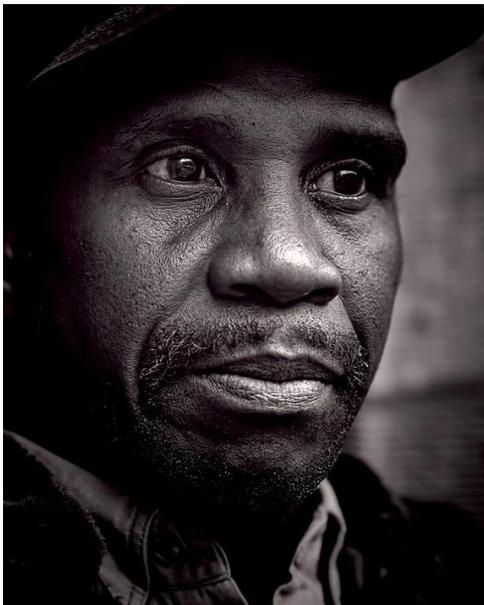
Musical Prelude: "Inner City Blues by Marvin Gaye"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=57Ykv1D0qEE>

Call to Worship (L: leader, P: people)

By Melissa Florer-Bixler

- L: "For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire." Isaiah 9:5
- P: In Minneapolis at the foot of the cross, your neck pinned under the knee of an officer.
- L: We are not as we ought to be, Whiteness whispers into cradles
- P: until later, by instinct, we can turn a phone call into a rope around a tree.
- L: When did we see you? Your back broken in a police van,
- P: Your neck broken on the sidewalk? When could you not breathe?
- L: When did we see you, shot in your bed? When did we see you, hung in a jail cell?
- P: Come grieving mother, weeping child.
- L: Come ministers of fire. Come priests of smoke.
- P: Come heat, come Spirit, turn gun and badge and night stick to ash.
- ALL: Come flame. Burn us away until we must begin again.



"What can we learn from Jesus' life about how we might address the systems of inequity and oppression in our own cultures? One lesson seems to me that we have to "start local." Jesus doesn't begin in Jerusalem or head off to Rome to take on empire. Rather he starts in his own hometown, among his own people, helping those who are hurting and naming those who are responsible without a hint of self-righteousness. He simply goes around doing what he knows to be right, which he surely discovered during his long periods of solitude

and silence (a form of contemplation) on the outskirts of town, and others begin to join him." — Richard Rohr

Lament in English and Spanish

By Danilo Sanchez

(English)

God of the Oppressed,
Yet again you have been killed by the
very people that claim to love you
Yet again your innocent blood has been
poured out
How long must your body endure this
suffering?

God of Justice,
Yet again we ask you, when will you
make all things right? When will you
hold accountable the evil doers?
We are tired of waiting! Your people
are still dying!

Make your ears deaf to the prayers of
those who would say these evil acts are
justified
For you are a God who loves justice and
will punish the evil doer.

Reconciling God,
We lament we are not your reconciled
people
We lament that the love of power has
found a place in your church
Forgive us. Heal us. Speak your truth to
us.

Amen.



(Spanish)

Dios de los Oprimidos,
Una vez más, has sido asesinado por las
mismas personas que dicen que te
aman.
Una vez más, tu sangre inocente ha sido
derramada.
¿Hasta cuando debes sufrir?

Dios de la Justicia,
Una vez más te preguntamos, ¿Cuándo
corregirás la injusticia? ¿Cuándo se hará
responsables a los malvados?
¡Estamos cansados de esperar! ¡Tu
gente todavía está muriendo!

Que tus oídos estén sordos a las
oraciones de aquellos que dirían que
estos actos malvados están justificados

Porque eres un Dios que ama la justicia
y castigará al malvado

Dios Reconciliado,
Lamentamos no ser tu pueblo
reconciliado
Lamentamos que el amor al poder haya
encontrado un lugar en tu iglesia.
Perdónanos. Cúranos. Dínos tu verdad.

Amen.

Confession

By Clara Weybright

God, we lament the damage that our silence in the face of racial violence has done,

for the sins of racism that run through our lives like so many threads in a cloth.

Forgive us for the times we have given in to our discomfort, for the times we have forgotten our own privilege and failed to stand with our black siblings.

Help those of us who experience white privilege every day remember that, with our privilege, we are imbued with the responsibility to challenge and hold one another accountable.

Give us the courage to educate ourselves, to listen well, and to use our voices when it is most needed.



Music: “Il y a un baume a Gilead” by Nina Simone

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MDiO-mfxZnQ>

Music: “Oh Healing River”

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3Eok_aih0WQ

2. HEARING GOD’S WORD

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 12:1-11

1 Corinthians 12:1 Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed... 4 Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; 5 and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; 6 and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. 7 To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. 8 To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit... to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits... 11 All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.



Message: "Are You Sitting Uncomfortably?"

Jeremiah 23:1 Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! says the Lord... It is you who have scattered my flock, and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. So I will attend to you for your evil doings, says the Lord. 3 Then I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the lands where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. 4 I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them, and they shall not fear any longer, or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing, says the Lord. 5 The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.

Amos 5 (selected verses) For thus says the Lord to the house of Israel: Seek me and live... Ah, you that turn justice to wormwood, and bring righteousness to the ground!

...Therefore because you trample on the poor and take from them levies of grain, you have built houses of hewn stone, but you shall not live in them; you have planted pleasant vineyards, but you shall not drink their wine. For I know how many are your transgressions, and how great are your sins— you who afflict the righteous, who take a bribe, and push aside the needy in the gate... Seek good and not evil, that you may live; and so the Lord, the God of hosts, will be with you, just as you have said. Hate evil and love good, and establish justice in the gate; it may be that the Lord, the God of hosts, will be gracious...

... But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

Luke 6:20 Then he looked up at his disciples and said: "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. 21 "Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled. "Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh. 22 "Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. 23 Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets. 24 "But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation. 25 "Woe to you who are full now, for you will be hungry. "Woe to you who are laughing now, for you will mourn and weep. 26 "Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets.

3. RESPONDING TO GOD



Music: “Guide my Feet”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cicd6kvZmv4>



Reflections and Responses

You just need to be a flea against injustice. Enough committed fleas biting strategically can make even the biggest dog uncomfortable and transform even the biggest nation.”

— Marian Wright Edelman

Joys and Concerns

Please pray for:

- The courage and action required to undo systemic racism.
- Transforming the energy and hope seen in peaceful protest into policy change, structural change, and new laws.
- Dan as his peripheral neuropathy is getting worse; he will need a wheelchair, but he will be able to control the pain with pills.
- Sustained hope and vision in our world.
- Those in the homeless community facing the closure of North Aztlan Center as a shelter.

Closing: “Wake up Everybody” by Harold Melvin and the Blue Notes

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=74uBYbZ_k9U

Post Service Conversation

Time to chat via Zoom!

“Each time a man stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope, and crossing each other from a million different centers of energy and daring, those ripples build a current that can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance.”

— Robert Kennedy

