

June 3, 2020

Since I wrote my last article on May 28, there has been so much unrest, pain, grief and tears in this country, in this world. I think about every person of color including white people and what injustice is saying to them. We are all called to have faith in our hearts, to love no matter what color and have compassion for our fellow brothers and sisters. Jesus did not say you were the wrong color so I treat you unfairly no he reached out in love and would expect us to do the same. I was talking to some friends last night and we talked about how we put on fake smiles during this time but instead our hearts are broken and inside the tears are flowing. What about our children of all ages? What is this doing to them and what are they thinking? The fear that must fill their hearts, fear that their parent, grandparent even they themselves will get killed, and how are they going to live their shattered lives and when some of them their parents have lost everything. How are our children and teens of today interpreting what's going on in our country and our world? In the past what did they worry about: sports, school, their friends and family but now their lives are filled with fear just as ours as adults. What are the elderly thinking as all of this is going on? They fear for their children and grandchildren and think back on the life they built for them and are now finding so much being torn down and destroyed. How many children, teens and parents go to bed crying each night? So many hearts have been ripped in half and people are questioning how do I put my heart, my life back together. None of us want to live in fear. No we want to live in a country and world that is peaceful.

We are all outraged by the senseless killings of Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, George Floyd and the many others who have died. They, like every single one of us have family and were living a life that needed to be respected. What can we people of faith do to change the injustice that we see going on throughout our world and country. My community, The Sisters of the Humility of Mary just put a statement out on Racism and in one place it says: "We pray that our hearts may be opened to hear the cries of our black sisters and brothers, that we find the strength and courage to respond to their call and find ways to create space for everyone to breathe."

Yes, we all need to do our part with prayer, respect, compassion and love. We need to ask the difficult question of each of us. What does justice mean to me and how will it reflect in the way I live my life? We all need to answer that question for ourselves. Our answers will probably be different but change is different for each and every one of us.

Do we want our children to live in fear every day? I don't think so. I know I don't want my niece and nephews to be fearful every time they go out the door and worry if their dads, moms, grandparents and others they know are going to die or get hurt. We are each sisters and brothers in Christ and Jesus says to each of us stretch out your arms and welcome the stranger. She or he will love you in return.

The past ten days we have spent so much time and energy on the protests that the coronavirus seemed to be pushed aside. However, please remember all those that are in pain from this virus. Whether we know someone or not, I can tell you there are so many people grieving and that includes children. Again the pain and tears are so much a part of peoples' hearts. Sometimes I wonder can they separate the virus from the protests. In the pain, no matter what it is, we need to stop and take in the beauty of God's creation. Breathe and take some time for each of us to heal. Whatever you do; Be Gentle with You and with Others.

Sister Pat Fesler, HM

Pastoral Assistant
Zion Lutheran