

Worship Notes for June 7, 2020
Orrville Trinity UMC
Peace with Justice Sunday and Communion

Greetings! Since we're unable to gather in-person this weekend, here are some resources to make it easier for you to worship at home with your family or small group. Please be sure to practice physical distancing! Blessings in our RISEN Lord, Jesus Christ! Pastor David

Opening Prayer

Sovereign God, We give thanks for the majestic creation that you called good. Open our hearts and minds to be creators of your peace with justice. Remind us of the responsibility with which you entrusted us to care for the work of your hands. Move us to repair what is broken in your world and to plant holy seeds so that your garden will flourish once again. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE PASSAGES - Galatians 3:25-29, Matthew 5:9

Galatians 3:25-29 (Common English Bible, CEB)

²⁵ But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a custodian.

²⁶ You are all God's children through faith in Christ Jesus. ²⁷ All of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. ²⁸ There is neither Jew nor Greek; there is neither slave nor free; nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹ Now if you belong to Christ, then indeed you are Abraham's descendants, heirs according to the promise.

Matthew 5:9 (Common English Bible, CEB)

"Happy are people who make peace, because they will be called God's children.

PRAYER

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

The Creator gave us authority over all that was good, and we have fallen short. We are invited to turn to God and ask for forgiveness.

UNISON PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS

God of justice and peace, we know that you created us in the diversity of your image. But still we refuse to see you reflected in the face of our neighbor who lacks adequate health care, experiences hunger, doesn't have a home. We don't see your image in the face of our neighbor who has a different skin tone, worships in a different tradition, speaks in a language we don't understand. Forgive us for lashing out from our sense of scarcity and greed, ignorance and fear. Turn us around to be peacemakers and justice builders, recognizing the abundance and balance of your garden. (Hold silence)

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Paul writes to the church in Corinth, “agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you.” In our faithfulness, we know that Jesus forgives us and guides us back to the garden path. Thank you, God. Amen.

QUESTIONS TO PONDER AND DISCUSS

Galatians 3:25-29

- How did things change because of Jesus’ sacrifice on the cross?
- Who is now able to enter the family of God?
- How well have we lived into Paul’s statements about who God receives into His family – Jew and Greek (Gentile)? Male and Female? Free and Slave?
- Do we have room to improve in this area?
- Who do we need to become more intentional about including?

Matthew 5:9

- Being a peace-maker is a noble attribute for followers of Jesus, but it’s not the same as being a peace-lover. Peace must be worked for.
- How can we be sure that the peace we make is a long lasting peace - the shalom peace the Bible speaks of, which promotes healing, wholeness, and reconciliation?
- Can there be true peace (shalom) without justice coming alongside?
- How can what we experience in the sacrament of communion help point us back in God’s direction, through repentance? How can the experience of communion motivate us to work toward building a more just society?
- What step can you take this week to begin to advocate for your black neighbors and friends? Will it be engaging in conversation, really listening? Reading a book by a black author? Speaking up? Attending a protest rally? Something else?