



## Wednesday Prayer

Holy Trinity Sunday – Remember, I am with you always

***Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." Matthew 28:16-20***

Tuesday, thousands of young people gathered at the Minnesota State Capitol for a student-led peaceful protest "Sit to Breathe." They are calling on Minnesota and the country to end police brutality and end hate crimes against black communities. They are coming together to lead the way toward justice and peace for all people of color. They are practicing radical love of neighbor, knowing that radical change is needed, and has been needed for a long, long time. They are paying tribute to the sit-ins that took place in the 1960's and throughout the Civil Rights movement. They are honoring the life of George Floyd and so many others. They are disciples leading the way.

As my teens left to join the protest, I shared this verse with them. Go therefore and make disciples, and remember that God is always with you. We've been talking about how the work of justice is hard, that it goes far beyond social media posts, and that we need to start with learning, listening, and repenting. Here are words from two Twin Cities pastors from these most recent days:

"It's tempting to focus our attention on the destruction that the neighborhood experienced last night--the fires, the windows, the merchandise lost, the tagging. I'd invite all of us to remember that these are but symptoms of a society that has suffered for far too long under the crushing weight of inequality. As people of faith, we mourn the losses of last night; the landscape of our neighborhood has been forever changed. As people of faith, we also refuse to let anything distract us from the brutal violence and years of systematic disparities that brought us here, right here." ~Pastor Ingrid, Holy Trinity, Minneapolis

"...help one another live. Racism, church, does not help us live. Not any of us. I have waves of panic when I think specifically of our sweet adolescent boys who are brown or black skinned. George was someone's baby. Now, there are 10 million action steps you can take--they are all being heavily circulated right now. But perhaps first we take a minute, a breath, to repent. Because none of those action steps create real change unless there is change within our own hearts and minds. And as a person of faith, I believe that is holy work. That is the Spirit. That is God-breathed and will bring life. ~Pastor Jodi, Humble Walk, Saint Paul

Systems of oppression and racism deeply affect who is at risk of sexual exploitation and trafficking. Our work for justice and systemic change *is* prevention work. Learn more and listen to the words of a young survivor: <https://love146.org/lets-talk-about-race-and-human-trafficking/>.

***Let us begin this holy work. The God of love and peace will be with you. 2 Corinthians 13:11***

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