



Indian Hill Church

EPISCOPAL † PRESBYTERIAN

Wednesday Reflection and Announcements

Let us lament & pray

As we mourn and
lament the evil in
our land,
May we turn to a
holy, sovereign God
In repentance and
in prayer
For a nation and a
people that have
lost their way
For the loss of
innocent life

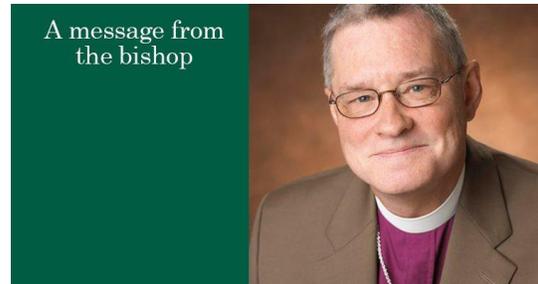
*Rejoice with those who rejoice;
weep with those who weep.*

Romans 12:15 ESV

Rev. Nancy Hopkins-Greene reflects on Pentecost, laments on lives lost, and calls us to action.

[Click here to view the Wednesday reflection](#)

Stay focused on our call
BISHOP TOM BREIDENTHAL
TUESDAY, JUNE 2, 2020



Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

I am careful not to take sides on political issues, unless they involve policies and inequities on which the Episcopal Church or this diocese has taken a stand, or which in my view support or run counter to the love of God and neighbor. Still less would I normally take an elected leader to task — not only because this diocese reflects a wide spectrum of views on political matters, but because our tradition has always espoused a healthy and respectful relationship between church and state.

But after our president’s behavior yesterday evening, I cannot keep silent. I am deeply offended by his exploitation of St. John’s Episcopal Church (a parish that has been a place of spiritual support for presidents of all parties throughout our national history) as the backdrop for yet another self-aggrandizing performance. I am appalled by his abuse of a physical Bible as a putative symbol of his power. I am deeply troubled by his apparent order that violence and terror be inflicted on peaceful protesters in order to secure his safe procession from the White House to his chosen stage set.

Let us not forget that the deeper issue here is white supremacy, and the unrelenting pressure on people of color that remains our national disgrace. We are within our rights as a church to demand respect, but it is more important for us to stay focused on our call as a part of the body of Christ and the community of all people of faith. In the words of our baptismal covenant, that call is to “respect the dignity of every human being.”

The Rt. Rev. Thomas E. Breidenthal
Bishop of Southern Ohio

Union Presbyterian Seminary
President Brian K. Blount
May 31, 2020



“And they conquered [evil] by the blood of the Lamb and the word of their witness.” The Apocalypse. 12:11.

If white Christians were to ask me, a black Christian, what they should do in response to the spiral of racially sparked violence into which we are rapidly and inevitably descending, I have pondered the response I would give. Strange, since no one has asked, that I nonetheless feel compelled to answer. I feel compelled because I am afraid. I am afraid because I fear that my voice is too insignificant to matter. I am afraid because I fear that while what I say bears insufficient weight to make a difference, it carries just enough potency to get me in trouble. I am afraid because I fear bringing trouble on myself when my people are writhing in a perpetual abyss of systemic injustice. I am afraid because I fear that one day, long after I have died, my son and daughter will still weep at news about a black individual murdered while sitting in her home, running in his community, walking home from his

corner store, driving in her car, standing in his front yard, exploring in his park, worshipping in her church, lying helpless on an American street, the full weight of a cavalier, almost casual, curiously disinterested, white anger crushing his throat beneath its self-righteous, imperious knee. I am afraid because I fear a reckoning on the streets if we cannot find justice in the courts, redress in our politics, realignment of our institutional policies, and reconsideration of our racial values. I am afraid because I fear that when I am called to my own final reckoning the record will show that I didn't do my part. I didn't witness. Not enough.

White Christians are not witnessing. Not enough.

In the Apocalypse, the world is possessed by systemic evil. That evil manifested itself in an imperial reign that demanded a fealty the Apocalypse's author claimed belonged solely to Christ. Rome wanted to be worshiped. Christ believers could respond in one of two ways. They could patriotically idolize Rome or they could witness to the Lordship of Christ. Either. Or.

Rome promised to punish anyone who refused to render the reverence it believed it was due. Writing to seven churches located in the belly of this imperial, bestial declaration of religious and political supremacy, John of Patmos pleaded for a witness to an alternative truth. The only leader who deserved fidelity and worship was this Jesus who died on a Roman cross. It was not Rome's empire but his resurrected Reign that should be revered and realized. He spilled his blood in an effort to inaugurate that Reign. He did his part. Our Christian part is to witness to that Reign in the way we speak our words and live our lives. That is our formula for reckoning with systemic evil that possesses institutions and drives individuals mad. The Blood of the Lamb. The Witness of the Lamb's Followers. Us black and you white Christians.

What does a Reign under the Lordship of Christ look like? Before we can witness for it we must know what it is. If we could see into God's future the way John saw through his open door into transcendence, perhaps we would know. We are not that farsighted. But our hindsight ought to be 20/20. Because it is written in a record for us. If Jesus of Nazareth is the Christ of the Apocalypse, then we have a glimpse of what a Reign under his rule would look like? We have something for which to witness. In the Gospel vision. There, lepers are touched. There are no Eric Garners who cannot breathe. There, the sick are unilaterally healed. There are no Ahmaud Arberys demonically hunted to death. There, codes and laws too legalistically and unjustly applied are broken. There are no Breonna Taylors, shot eight times, when their homes are broken into by law enforcement. There, men once incapacitated by paralysis walk. There are no George Floyds paralyzed beneath the weight of ruthless state agents. There, systems of ethnic segregation are broken open by the vision of a house of prayer for all the nations. There is no aspiration of a rule where one people structure society so that it perpetually privileges them and those like them.

We know from hindsight the promise of Jesus' vision. We know what it intends. Our calling is to witness to it. No matter the cross.

I am afraid because I know I am not witnessing. Not enough.

I am afraid because I know that white Christians are not witnessing. Not enough.

Why does our country need white Christians to witness more than they are? More now even than black Christians and black people of every faith and of no faith?

Whether it's individual acts of brutality or systemic oppression, it is hard to maneuver successfully for change when your hands are shackled, your legs are taken out from beneath you, and someone is kneeling on your neck. You need the people who wield economic, political, police, and military power to reign in the agents they have authorized to act on their behalf, to rain down change upon the systems their forebears have spent centuries erecting. To privilege themselves.

You need them to witness.

Not just spiritually. Tangibly. Not just with well-intentioned prayer. With concrete action. Not just from the pulpit and in the sanctuary. Out in the world, on the streets of their cities, in the corridors of their power.

No, this evil of enduring American racism is not just a Christian problem. But for a people who claim to follow a Jesus who died on a cross for all people, and whom we claim reigns in heaven interceding with God for all people, it is an evil we must especially engage. We cannot claim to witness to this risen Christ and simultaneously allow our country's descent into this racial abyss.

We Christian people can make a difference. We must help defeat this draconian, systemic evil.

By our witness.
Before it is too late.

Sunday, May 31 2020
Special Message from Rev. Dr. Stephen Caine

This message preceded the May 31 Pentecost worship service. Rev. Dr. Stephen Caine addresses current racial tensions.

[Click here to view the message from Rev. Dr. Stephen Caine on May 31](#)



**IHC Connections:
Post Sermon Discussion
Sunday, June 7 11:00 AM**

Join us this Sunday for an online discussion. Here is the zoom link. If you need help learning about Zoom, contact Amy Clark (aclark@indianhillchurch.org).

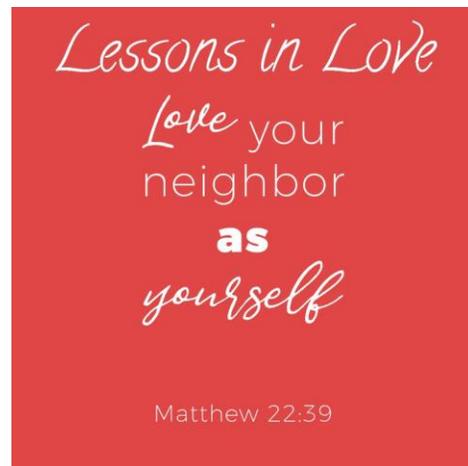
[Click here for Zoom link](#)



**Lessons in Love
Summer Children's Christian Education**

Today is the first day of the summer children's Christian Education program, Lessons in Love. Each week parents will receive an email that will contain a video with music and a story, talking points for a discussion between you and your children, a craft and a snack.

Lessons in Love will be focused on social justice issues that will be taught through picture books and Bible based stories. This week the book is Brian the Brave. Your child may enjoy the book because it is about sheep that become friends or you may choose to discuss issues of race with your child. This is entirely your choice. As always, your child's questions should guide your conversation.



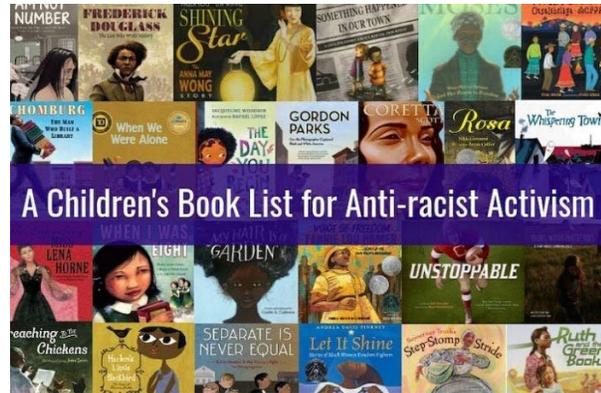
Over the last two years, I have felt called to address social justice and inclusion with the children, but I didn't know exactly how to start. In January, I attended the Association of Presbyterian Church Educators conference where the focus of the meeting was social justice. We heard from one of the Little Rock Nine, Elizabeth Ann Eckford, toured Central High School, enjoyed listening to Theresa Cho share her experience as Korean Pastor at a predominantly Caucasian church and we learned about racism in America from Lisa Sharon Harper. I selected workshops that taught me to how to teach about social justice through children's literature. After returning home from the conference and discussing what I had learned with the Christian Education committee, we decided that we would use children's literature as the base for the summer curriculum. Little did we know how much we would need a method to explain current events to our children this summer.

If you would like to be added to the Young Family Weekly Lessons in Love email, please email Jennifer Taylor (christianeducation@indianhillchurch.org).

Jennifer Taylor
Director of Children and Family Ministries

31 Children's books to support conversations on race, racism, and resistance

Research from Harvard University suggests that children as young as three years old, when exposed to racism and prejudice, tend to embrace and accept it, even though they might not understand the feelings. By age 5, white children are strongly biased towards whiteness. To counter this bias, experts recommend acknowledging and naming race and racism with children as early and as often as possible. Children's books are one of the most effective and practical tools for initiating these critical conversations; and they can also be used to model what it means to resist and dismantle oppression.



Beyond addressing issues of race and racism, this children's reading list focuses on taking action. It highlights resistance, resilience and activism; and seeks to empower youth to participate in the ongoing movement for racial justice. These books showcase the diverse ways people of all ages and races have engaged in anti-racist activism, and highlight how race intersects with other issues, such as capitalism, class and colonization. The majority of books center activists of color, whose lives and bodies have been on the front lines of racial justice work, yet whose stories often go untold. The essential work of white activists is also included — to underscore that anti-racist work is not the responsibility of people of color; and exemplify the ways white allies have stood up against racial injustice.

[Click here for list of books](#)

Ways to Give at Indian Hill Church

There is a new GIVE button on the front page of the Indian Hill Church website (indianhillchurch.org) There are several ways to give towards the work of Indian Hill Church:



1. Credit Card or ACH

[Click here to give online](#)

You have the option to do a ONE-TIME payment or RECURRING payments via credit card or ACH via your banking information. Please note the church is assessed a 3% processing fee for all online transactions. You have the option to help offset these fees at check out.

2. PayPal

[To give by PayPal click here](#)

You have the option to do a ONE-TIME payment or RECURRING payments via credit card or ACH via your banking information. Please note the church is assessed a 2.5% processing fee for all transactions.

3.Text Messaging

Text messaging is a new option for Indian Hill Church. Text 73256 to give to IHC using your mobile device. Standard text messaging rates do apply.

4.Mail a Check

We always accept checks by mail.

Please make all checks payable to Indian Hill Church and mail to 6000 Drake Road, Cincinnati OH 45243.

5.Stock Options

The easiest way to donate stock to Indian Hill Church is to have the transfer handled by your broker or that company that handles the stock. You can instruct your broker or custodian to transfer the stock to:

Bartlett Wealth Management
DTC# 0164 Code 40
a/c 8023-0535 Indian Hill Church

It is important that our broker be notified that stock is being transferred. Please notify Tara Britton at Bartlett Wealth Management. Tara's contact information is tbritton@bartlett1898.com or at 513-621-4612.

Readers Needed

Do you have a phone with a camera and email capability? If so, you can be a part of our weekly video worship service. If you would like to be a reader or pray the prayer, please email Amy Clark (aclark@indianhillchurch.org).



**IPM (Inter Parish Ministry)
Power Packs
100 Power Packs Needed Weekly!**

This week we donated 150 Power Packs! Thank you very much!

You can sign up to make Power Packs via sign up genius or by emailing Holly Dewees (waltandholly@fuse.net).

[Click here to sign up on Sign Up Genius](#)



What makes a good power pack?

1. Look for a **meal** for each bag (microwave mac and cheese, microwave ravioli, soups with pull tab, canned chicken/tuna lunch kits, Hormel shelf stable meals).
2. Add other items such as individual cereals, applesauce, fruit cups, shelf-stable puddings, oatmeal, peanut butter crackers, JIF peanut butter to go cups, raisins, chips, juice box, granola bar, pretzels, microwave popcorn, cheese crackers).
3. Seal items in a gallon Ziploc bag.
4. It is great when the bag is full of items.
5. Feel free to add an encouraging note to the child receiving the Power Pack.

Power Packs can be dropped off anytime at one of three church member houses. These members have volunteered to have a bin at the front porch for power packs.

Church Member Drop off locations:

Michael and Jennifer Taylor's house: 6305 Graves Road, Cincinnati, OH 45243
Walt and Holly Dewees' house: 9310 Old Indian Hill Road, Cincinnati, OH 45243
Phil and Suzanne Beck's house: 9983 Walnutridge Ct., Cincinnati, OH 45242

IPM Drop Off Location:

Monday and Tuesday 10:00 am-12:00 pm at the Newtown Pantry 3509 Debolt St., Cincinnati, OH 45244

You may also donate items to be assembled into Power Packs by an IPM volunteer.

[Click here to donate items for Power Pack Assembly](#)

"In His name, lending a helping hand to others."

**Our Daily Bread
Sandwiches, Fruit and Dessert
June 10**

New Dates added: June 17 and June 24

Indian Hill Church is providing sandwiches, fruit and dessert every Wednesday in June. Sign up to help by emailing Jennifer Taylor or signing up on signup genius.

We still need sandwiches, fruit and dessert for June 10, 17 and 24.

[Sign Up Genius Link](#)



"In His name, lending a helping hand to others."

Drop off sandwiches, fruit and desserts on Tuesday afternoon or evening or on Wednesday morning before 9:00 AM.

Procedure:

- 1- Sign up via sign up genius or by emailing me (christianeducation@indianhillchurch.org)
- 2- Clean your kitchen counters with antibacterial cleaner.
- 3- Wash your hands thoroughly. If you have gloves, wear them to prepare the food.
- 4- Wear a mask and cover your hair with a hat or tie it back if long.
- 5- Make ham and cheese, turkey and cheese or peanut butter and jelly sandwiches. (No condiments please.)
- 6- Place sandwiches in a sandwich baggie and label contents (Ham, Turkey, PB&J).
(As an alternative, you are welcome to pick up sandwiches from any sandwich company- Penn Station, Jimmy Johns, Jersey Mikes, Subway etc.)
- 7- Treats/ Desserts can be homemade or store bought. They need to be individually packaged. I would avoid nuts just to be safe.
- 7- Deliver sandwiches, fruit and desserts on Tuesday to Jennifer Taylor (6305 Graves Road, 45243). I will have coolers on the porch for contactless drop off.
- 8- Take a picture making the sandwiches for us to share with the congregation.

"In His name, lending a helping hand to others."

What are you doing at home?

Photos Needed

What are you doing at home? Cleaning closets, walking, knitting, cooking, baking, gardening, watching movies, polishing silver, washing china and crystal, home schooling? We all miss seeing each other each week at worship and coffee hour. Please send us a picture of what you are doing at home to pass the time. Send your pictures to Amy Clark (aclarke@indianhillchurch.org).



CONNECT WITH US!



www.indianhillchurch.org