

SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, NYC
Weekly email for Sunday June 7, 2020 – Trinity Sunday

Dear Ones,

I greet you, albeit from a distance, with a holy kiss of peace and the warm embrace of Christ's Spirit. We are living through challenging days, and many of us feel overwhelmed, and I wish we could offer physical encouragement to one another. For as I shared with Session this week, I am reminded of the words of Jeremiah:

*¹³For from the least to the greatest of them, everyone is greedy for unjust gain; and from prophet to priest, everyone deals falsely. ¹⁴They have treated the wound of my people carelessly, saying, "Peace, peace," when there is no peace. ¹⁵They acted shamefully, they committed abomination; yet they were not ashamed, they did not know how to blush. Therefore they shall fall among those who fall; at the time that I punish them, they shall be overthrown, says the Lord. ¹⁶Thus says the Lord: Stand at the crossroads, and look, and ask for the ancient paths, where the good way lies; and walk in it, and find rest for your souls. But they said, "We will not walk in it." ~
Jeremiah 6: 13 – 16*

We are once more confronted by the knowledge that we as a nation have acted shamefully in upholding and perpetuating a deeply unjust system of racism. Perhaps now, through young protestors bravely facing disease and brutality, in the highlighted brutality and also instances of solidarity of public servants, and upraised voices of so many, we will clearly see where God's good way lies, and once and for all, walk in it.

I am working on planning an initial conversation addressing racism for our congregation. As I haven't heard from too many people, I think I'll issue an open invitation (to members and friends only) for the first meeting and see where we are.

Meanwhile, for those (like me) who cannot safely take to the streets these days, here are some suggestions of actions you can take.

Fill out your Census 2020 form (<https://my2020census.gov/>) and encourage others to do so. It's important that all our neighbors be counted.

VOTE! For the June 23 NYS Primary, you can still apply for an absentee ballot if you can't vote in person (threat of COVID-19 is an acceptable reason for applying). Or engage in early voting. Whatever you do – make sure you and everyone you know are registered to vote in time for the November Election.

Absentee voting: <https://www.elections.ny.gov/VotingAbsentee.html>

Voter registration: <https://www.elections.ny.gov/VotingDeadlines.html>

The League of Women Voters NYC is always helpful – their staff is working remotely, so you can call: **212-725-3541 or 212-213-8950**

Donate money. There are many worthy groups. Here are just a few options, and their websites have other suggestions for action, including links for contacting legislators:

Black Live Matter of Greater New York
(<https://www.blacklivesmattergreaterny.com/donation>
or national <https://blacklivesmatter.com/>

ACLU <https://www.aclu.org/> or <https://www.nyclu.org/>

NAACP <https://www.naacp.org/>

Color of Change(<https://colorofchange.org/>

The Bail Project, <https://bailproject.org/> , which provides bail money to protestors.

Contact your elected officials

Urge New York’s legislature to #Repeal50a and end police misconduct secrecy. Learn more about the Safer NY Act (<https://www.changethenypd.org/safer-ny>) and then call your representatives in the State Senate and State Assembly (note: The Presbytery of New York City has called for the repeal of this legislation).

WEAR ORANGE WEEKEND Let’s not forget that gun violence disproportionately affects people of color. Everytown USA says: “even in a pandemic, we are reminded of the devastating toll gun violence takes on communities, and the myriad ways that racism and white supremacy put Black people and people of color at an increased risk of gun violence, including police violence. In honor of Hadiya Pendleton, and all survivors of gun violence, we come together to take a stand against the deadly mix of white supremacy, racism, and gun violence in this country. Stand with us in the fight against injustice by wearing orange for national gun violence awareness weekend.

<https://wearorange.org>



A NOTE FROM OUR SISTER KAREN

Dear Friends at SPC,

Thank you so much for your love, prayers, and support for myself, Lauren, and Justin following Scott’s death. While our grief has been tough, we have felt strength and love from you. It is amazing to me how God’s love is always present even in unthinkable circumstances. There are no spiritual distances among us. You have reached out to me in so many abundant ways. Even though we have not been able to physically gather together in the same place, I have felt as though many of you have been standing next

to me on this journey of grief. Thank you so much dear friends. God's love knows no barriers.

*Love and Blessings,
Karen*

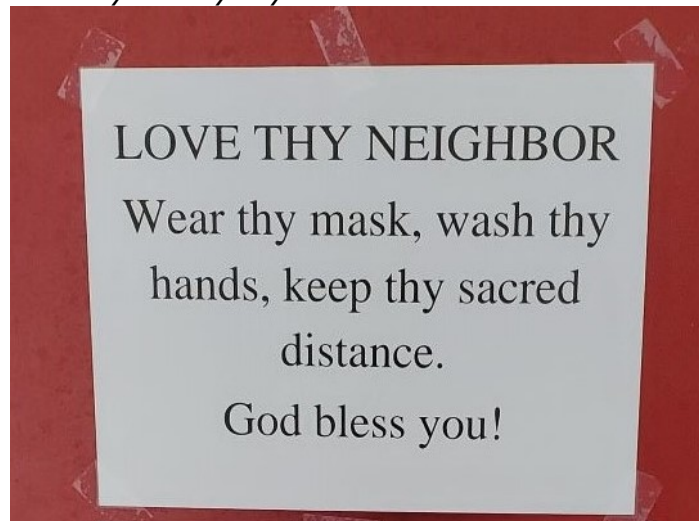
"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." Romans 15: 13

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LOOKING AHEAD:

Thursday, June 11, 11 am: The Virtual Graduation of Alexander Robertson School 5th Graders – join the celebration! Further info/link to come!

We do not know what the future holds but we trust in God. Though New York City is beginning to open up soon, I remind you of the words of Chairperson Elaine Steele: *"As the city and state begin the process of reopening, we are proceeding cautiously when it comes to resuming worship in the sanctuary, with the highest consideration being the safety of our congregants. At this point, as the risk of infection continues, we do not anticipate resuming in-person worship at least through the summer, and possibly after that. As time goes on, we will remain open to and guided by the city and state government, public health authorities and fellow church bodies, including the New York City Presbytery.*



Call for Musicians! Summer Worship starts June 28, and Minister of Music, Ms. Eunjung Ahn, invites any and all church musicians (singers and/or instrument players) to volunteer to serve as soloists while Katy and Marcel are off for the summer. So call or email Eunjung if you're interested - or even think you might be!

This Sunday at SPC

Sunday, June 7: Communion Sunday!

On this first Sunday of June we will try our hand, literally, at celebrating a Stay at Home Lord's Supper. Please prepare your bread and wine – whatever those are, and have them ready before worship.

For Sunday's Stay at Home Worship (music, readings and a meditation), click this link:

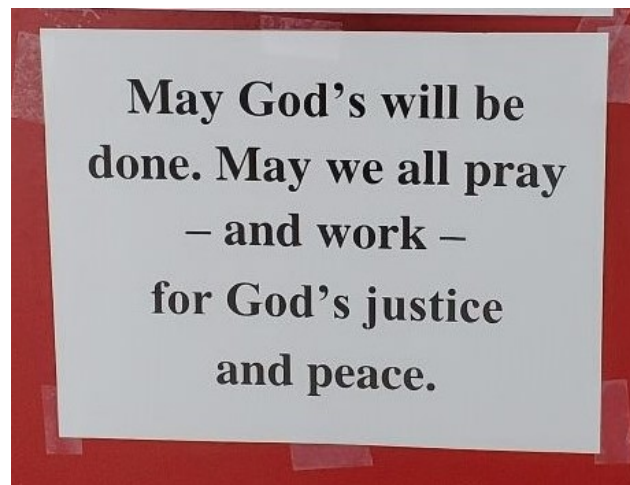
<https://secondpresbyteriannyc.org/events/worship-19/>

You can also simply go to <https://secondpresbyteriannyc.org> each week, and click on the Recent Sermon or Stay-At-Home Worship link.

And here's the link for Family Worship: <https://pres-outlook.org/2020/06/june-7-gods-creation-family-faith-formation-at-home/>

For our Zoom get together Sundays at 10: 45 am: for safety reasons, we can't publish the Zoom information on the website, but members and friends should feel free to contact me or any church member for details.

Another word from Cuba this week, from Rev. Dora Arce Valentin, Moderator of the Presbyterian Reformed Church in Cuba (IPRC) (and whom I had the honor of meeting in Cuba some years ago). She writes:
From this small island, blocked, poor, humble and generous, in the midst of a pandemic that distances us from all that we consider routine and invites us to social isolation to preserve our health, receive an immense healing embrace as strong as the breath of the Spirit that at Pentecost reminded us that we are one people, dispersed, diverse, multiethnic, beautiful and sustained by the powerful love of God that calls us to seek the Kingdom of God and his justice as the foundation of our mission.



God be with you, until we meet again.

love and light,

Rev. L

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