

Trinity Sunday – Year B – 05-30-2021

Isaiah 6: 1-8, Psalm 29, Romans 8:12-17, John 3:1-17

This weekend we are celebrating Memorial Day. The day when we remember all of those women and men who had died in the service of this Country. It is a time to pause and reflect on the sacrifices that so many have made over so many years so that we can enjoy the freedom we have today. In recent days our country has experienced difficult divisions, divisions that have split families, neighbors, and communities. It has been a time when we have seen unprecedented attacks; on our Capital, attacks on peaceful protest and on innocent people. This past week alone there has been yet again another as yet unexplained shooting in California where many were injured or died. We hear of Asian citizens, often elderly, being attacked simply because of their ethnicity. Confrontations between police and citizens seem often to result in deadly force. Many are raising their voices demanding change, but there seems to be no clear path to that change.

As we reflect on the men and women who have offered their lives that all Americans of every color, race religion and national origin might be free, it is well to ask ourselves where are we as a nation and where are we headed. What do we owe to those that have died that they will not have died in vain? What is the legacy that we wish to leave for our children and grandchildren? Where do we hear the voice of God and what is that voice calling us to do and to be?

We have come through harrowing times in the past many months. Times that few if any of us have ever experienced before. We have sacrificed and prayed, we have been afraid, and we have hoped. Now we are at a crossroads. Do we attempt to return to things the way they were? Or are we ready to put into practice the lessons we have learned? Many of our brothers and sisters have said “no more”. They have said ‘it is time’ and they have courageously faced those who oppose them. It has been a time of increased violence and hate which for many of us has been troubling. We have had to come to the realization that all is not well in our beloved country.

We are being called to a renewed patriotism, a patriotism that invites all to come into the circle. A Patriotism that invites all to have a share in what is good, and fruitful. This is the patriotism that honors the sacrifice of those who we remember this Memorial Day. It is the patriotism that calls us each to do our part to re-make the nation into the place we long for it to be. A place of peace and prosperity, a place of abundance and opportunity, a place where there truly is justice and liberty for all.

In a few moments you will be invited to enter into a Covenant to root out racism. It is not something that will be accomplished in a day, a week or even a year. Today will mark the time we begin to consider how we put into practice those actions that will change. It is easy to pass a resolution endorsing this covenant as was done at our Diocesan Convention. It is much more difficult to put such words into practice in our communities and churches. Today we are invited to begin.

Whatever your plans for this weekend, or even if your plans are no special plans at all, take time consider our life together in this land. What needs to change? How do we decide? How do the necessary changes come about? We will differ in our individual answers to these questions and others that await us. We will not be of one mind. In the history of this country, we have rarely been of one mind, but with honest and thoughtful conversation, with a will to listen more than to speak and with the courage to step into uncharted waters, we can move beyond this time of anxiety, fear, violence and pain to a new place. God willing, we have only to

begin where we are and trust in the leading of the Spirit and the wisdom of God to help us move to the place where God calls us to be.