



**The Pastor's Portion**  
 May 31, 2020  
 Spiritual Nourishment for the Soul

WHERE THE DOORS OF THE CHURCH SWING OPEN ON THE HINGES OF LOVE AND PEACE

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**SACRED CONVERSATIONS TO END RACISM.**

**RACISM IS A SIN!** The people of God must stand against racism in all its forms. I am a UCC Nationally certified trainer in **Sacred Conversations to End Racism, de-center Whiteness, and dismantle white supremacy.** If you are interested in forming a group to engage in a comprehensive study of the false construct of race in America, please contact me to arrange for a group study.

**VIRTUAL OFFICE HOURS:** My virtual doors are open for anyone who wants to talk, needs a listening ear, is lonely or in need of help.

**YOU CAN CALL IN OR JOIN BY VIDEO:** Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87025161476>

Meeting ID: 870 2516 1476

**OR DIAL IN:**

646-558-8656 ACCESS

CODE:87025161476#

**LOVE ALWAYS WINS!**



**BLACK LIVES MATTER!  
 BLACK LIVES MATTER  
 BLACK LIVES MATTER**

**In Memory of all the people of African Descent who have been lynched by the Police or white Nationalists.**

**The People of God stand firmly against Racism and Oppression.**

**NEW LOG IN CREDENTIALS FOR SUNDAY WORSHIP AND WEDNESDAY PRAYER/STUDY.**

**Join Zoom Meeting BY VIDEO**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87330604676>

Meeting ID: 873 3060 4676

**BY PHONE:**

646-558-8656 ACCESS CODE 87330604676#

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**JOIN US FOR MID WEEK BIBLE STUDY ON WEDNESDAY AT 7PM**

**BY VIDEO**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87567605330>

meeting ID: 875 6760 5330

**BY PHONE 646-558-8656 ACCESS CODE: 87567605330#**

May the words of my mouth and the meditations of our hearts be acceptable in your sight oh Lord, you are our rock and our redeemer. Now God, hide your servant behind the cross for just a little while, that your people may hear a word from you. Play me in any key that is pleasing to YOUR ears that your people may resonate with the tunes of justice, love and peace. Come now, come again, and keep coming Holy Spirit, Kindle the flame of justice and love with our anxious hearts.

### **I CAN'T BREATHE!**

It was evening of the second day of the week. There was a break in the zoom meetings. The meetings had been focused on two main topics: how to address the massive hunger, homelessness and poverty that is being caused by a pandemic that started in 1619, the first year that enslaved Africans were brought to the shores of America...COVID 1619---a deadly virus that is an equal opportunity killer, but has a dramatically disparate impact on people of color in poor communities...what is the proper church response, what is the response of the men and women of God in such a widespread humanitarian crisis.... AND what

will the church's response be to the brazen murder of Ahmed Abrey by white skinned vigilante nationalists who hunted him down and killed him in cold blood.

And then Breaking News...there has been yet another killing of an unarmed, non-resistant Black man at the hands of a clearly racist police officer in Minneapolis...

### **I CAN'T BREATHE**

The SPIRIT...THE Holy Spirit, the Spirit that God breathed into George's body, the Spirit that Jesus breathed on his followers before he ascended to be with God, that same Spirit that rested on the community of faith at the birth of the church -- -that same Spirit left George Floyd's body as he lay face down on the floor with the knee of this officer on his neck crushing his windpipe.

It was a crime so brazen it was committed in the presence and with the assistance of three other officers---in broad daylight with multiple terrified onlookers filming it on their cell phones. But the officers, so smug, so callous they ignored the EMT workers in the crowds who begged THEM TO ALLOW them TO TAKE GEORGE FLOYD'S PULSE, ignored the pleas of people

pleading with them AND TELLING THEM THAT THEY WERE KILLING THE MAN.

It was an act so BRAZEN that they felt they could lie about it and get away scot free...keeping their jobs and pensions as they remain free to hunt down more unarmed black men as prey.

### **I CAN'T BREATHE! MY STOMACH HURTS, MY NECK HURTS, EVERYTHING HURTS, THEY'RE GONNA KILL ME!**

These were the last words of George Floyd.

A mother in heaven weeps, a sister screams, people all over the nation cry out in anguish: HOW LONG LORD??? I CAN'T BREATHE! HOW LONG BEFORE they will stop killing with impunity? How long will we all have to endure what has now been centuries of white supremacy and white skinned privilege which is baked into the very fabric of this nation? How long before we can see the DIGNITY AND WORTH of all humanity? HOW LONG BEFORE We RECOGNIZE THAT WE are all CHILDREN OF THE MOST HIGH GOD, KINGS KIDS? How long?

Was it not enough that African Kings and queens, a people with a great civilization and culture--a whole continent of people with highly advanced culture: science, music, art mathematics, architecture, agriculture, religion and love, were kidnapped and snatched and enslaved for PROFIT, being forced to pick the cotton, grow the tobacco on a land stolen from the Native Americans, another highly advanced people? That wasn't enough? Apparently not, because centuries later, through murder and rape by men in white hoods, and women gathered around the cross--- I mean the lynching tree, --- through slavery and suffering, through Jim Crow and the civil rights era, through the prison industrial complex and the immigration industrial complex, through the racist legal system and the mainstream media/advertising conglomerates, --- the hounds of hell have unleashed their fury upon Black and brown bodies because of differences that are of no biological significance.

For centuries that myth of white skinned supremacy has been codified in science, in textbooks

and in law. The myth is now so engrained that it has become the functional truth of so many...too many. It is the myth that will allow a white woman in central park to falsely allege to the police that a mild mannered bird watching Black man was threatening her--- knowing that the police would be an immediate threat to his life in broad daylight. All of this while SHE WAS THE ONE BREAKING THE LAW AND IGNORING THE ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK. YES, now that myth of white skinned superiority is so great and so engrained that it will take an act of Jesus, God and the Holy Spirit to unravel it. But unravel it will. How long Lord? How long will these savages choke the breath of the Holy Spirit out of your children? Out of our brothers, our sisters, our aunties and uncles, our fathers and grandfathers----our neighbors? How long Lord? Yes, we are all George Floyd. Children of the Most-High God. King's kids! God, CENTURIES AGO THE PSALMIST CRIED OUT TO YOU

At our stumbling they gathered in glee,

they gathered together against us; ruffians whom we did not know tore at us without ceasing; <sup>16</sup> they impiously mocked more and more,<sup>[4]</sup>

gnashing at us with their teeth. <sup>17</sup> How long, O LORD, will you look on?

Rescue us from their ravages, OUR lives from the lions!

This is Pentecost Sunday, the day when the Holy Spirit came and rested on the entire household of faith, in the presence of 120 Jews of every sort and description, from every region, the Holy spirit came like the sound of a rushing wind, filling the house and dividing the tongues of the people, so that they spoke in different languages and **each understood the other.** The Holy Spirit that Jesus had already breathed on his disciples in the room where they were hiding in fear brought unity to the entire community, and it empowered them to speak so as to be understood.

That Spirit breath that was choked out of George Floyd did not leave and remain dormant. That Spirit moved over the face of this nation to cause massive uprising against indignity and oppression, it moved

to compel men and women, black and white, rich and poor COVID or NO COVID to rise up to the forces of evil institutionalized racism and inhumane treatment . And it will rise, it will blow, it will rush until there is change.

Today is the birthday of the church, the gathered community of faith - and it is a day that the people of God must speak! Speak in tongues of righteous indignation, speak in tongues of holy heartbreak, speak in tongues so that the Lord will hear our cry: How Long Lord will you allow your children to suffer such indignity, such inhumanity, such savage and despicable treatment? How long oh Lord will you allow white supremacist ideology to rule this land, how long oh Lord will your children bear the brunt of systemic and personal racism before you bring justice, before your wrath rains down, and your justice rolls like rivers of fresh refreshing water? How long? Yes, this is the day that the church must speak truth to power, must bear witness to the power of the goodness over evil, the power of love over hate, the affirmation of the humanity of all of God's creation.

So If you can't PREACH -- PRAY  
If you can't PRAY -- MOAN  
If you can't MOAN -- CRY  
If you can't CRY -- JUST TRUST GOD!  
If you don't have the energy to RUN -- WALK  
If you're too weary  
to WALK --  
STAND  
If you're too tired  
to STAND --  
SIT  
If you're too weak  
to SIT --  
LEAN  
If you're too frail  
to LEAN --  
LOOK  
If you  
can't  
LOOK -- THINK  
THINK -- FEEL

FEEL -- WAIT  
Wait for the holy ghost power that is coming right now. For mark my words: if we do not do something, if we fail to act, if we won't speak truth to power, then we can rest assured that our dying whisper will be: I can't breathe! I CAN'T BREATHE, I CAN'T BREATHE!!!! I AM WEARY, MY

STOMACH HURTS,  
EVERYTHING HURTS, THEY  
ARE GOING TO KILL ME!  
Those will be the last words, of a dying people...let us pray.