


The Rev. Dr. Pauli Murray – Community Mural in Durham, NC

The Baptismal Covenant: Your Guide to a Jesus-Centered Life

Session 6: Love and Justice



St. George's
Episcopal
Church

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1. Introduction
 2. The Creed
 3. Affirmations & Renunciations
 4. Promises 1 – Worship
 - 5. Promises 2 – Resist Evil and Share the Good News**
 6. Promises 3 – Love your Neighbor and Work for Justice

Confirmation / Reception / Reaff Retreat: March 2

Some Review: What is the Baptismal Covenant?



What's a Covenant?



von Carolsfeld, Julius Schnorr. *Moses back from Sinai with Tablets*. Engraving, 1860. Excerpt.

- Things God promises to do
 - Noah, Abraham, Moses, Mary
 - “New Covenant”: Jesus Christ
- Things God’s people promise to do in response
 - 10 Commandments, David & Kings
 - “New Covenant”: Jesus Christ
- Always in that order




A Covenant with whom?
The Creed(s)

Renunciations & Affirmations

- Part of Baptism liturgy (BCP 302) and Confirmation / Reception liturgy
- Part of ancient Examination before Baptism
 - Renunciation of Satan [and sin]
 - Recitation of the Creed



Baptism Procession. Dura Europos, Syria. c. 232 CE.
Baptistery reconstructed, frescoes original.



Communal Act – together as the
whole Body of the faithful



The Promises

Celebrant Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of the bread, and in the prayers?

People I will, with God's help.

Celebrant Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

People I will, with God's help.



The Promises

Celebrant Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

People I will, with God's help.

Celebrant Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

People I will, with God's help.

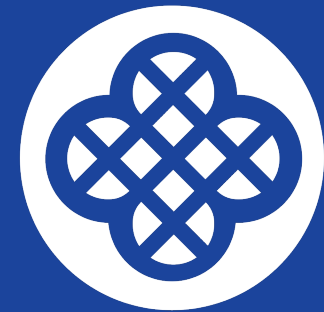
Celebrant Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

People I will, with God's help.

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Will you persevere in resisting evil and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?



Will you proclaim by word and
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Will you seek and serve Christ
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How do you seek and serve Christ in all persons?

- All persons, not just Christians?
- We are all made in the image of God (Genesis 1).
- Jesus Christ is the perfect image of God and shows us the nature of God (catechism p. 849).
- When we see glimpses of the Divine in others we can say that we see glimpses of Christ as well.



Sister Munira's Community Dinner Team! Loving neighbors by feeding them together, across faiths, as children of one God.

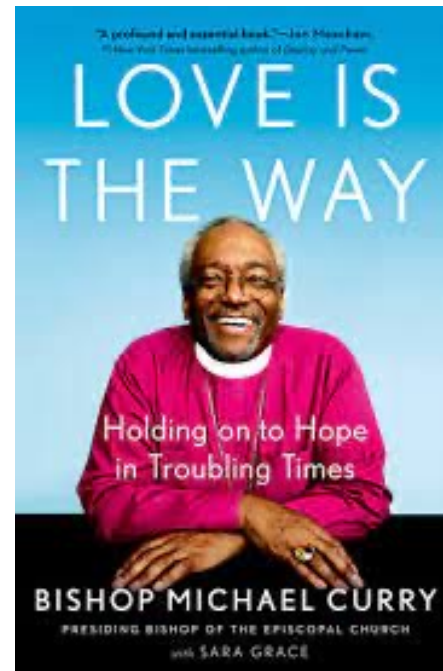
How do you seek and serve Christ in all persons?

- Matthew 25: Jesus says that “whenever you did it to one of the least of these, you did it to me.”
- We serve Christ in others, especially in those who are vulnerable (sick, prisoners, hungry, thirsty, etc.)
- This is why our work with Micah Ministries and others is so important...not just being kind and compassionate but seeking and serving Christ!



It's all about LOVE

- Leviticus 19:18: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself. I am the LORD”
- Mark 12:28-31, Matthew 22:34-40, Luke 10:25-28: summary of the Law: Love God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength. Love your neighbor as yourself.
- Love = “agape” (ah-gah-pay, Greek), the love that God has for humans and that humans have for God. Covenantal love. A binding force for good rather than just a good feeling.



Will you strive for peace and justice among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?



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What are peace, justice, and dignity?

- Peace (shalom - Hebrew): Wholeness and fulfillment in God. Not merely the absence of conflict.
- Justice (mishpat – Hebrew; krisis – Greek): righteous judgement in the eyes of God.
- Dignity: worthiness in the eyes of God. Worthy of mercy and love. Worthy of honor and respect.



Medical Mission Team with members of St. George's and Notre Dame Parish and School – Port Au Prince, Haiti 2018. Promoting education and health is a way to strive for justice, peace, and human dignity.

How do we fulfill this promise, with God's help?

- Racial Justice and Healing – Becoming Beloved Community
 - Truth telling
 - Proclaiming the dream
 - Practicing the way of love
 - Repairing the breach
- Advocacy and policy – Episcopal Public Policy Network
- Micah Ministries: Do justice, love mercy, walk humbly.
- Diocesan, ecumenical and interfaith relationships – all people, every human being



Racial Justice Demonstration in Hurkamp Park – May 2020

Questions? Reflections?



Small Groups

- Where have you seen Christ in others?
- Where have you seen God's love in action through others?
- How are you/we part of work to seek justice, peace, and dignity for all?

