



First Church Tucson Weekly Digest

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# Love in Action

By South District Superintendent Rev. Matt Ashley on August 18th, 2020

“Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?” ~Luke 10:36~

The Good Samaritan story found in Luke 10:25-27 is one of the best-known parables of Jesus. Its message is simple: followers of Jesus love our neighbors with our actions as well as our words.

We do not leave the man beaten by robbers lying in the ditch. We help because we are called to love our neighbors.

Like many of you, I was dismayed and grieved by the horrific video of George Floyd’s death in police custody. This is just one tragic example of the malign persistence of racism in our culture and in our world.

People of faith and people of conscience are called to hear the cries of our black neighbors and respond, not just with our words but our actions.

I am grateful for the work of our recently formed Desert Southwest Conference Race Coalition that is helping us to respond proactively to make sure racism has no future in our world. You can find out more about the DSC Race Coalition on our Desert Southwest Conference website. Today I want to highlight an important resource being offered and invite the people of the South District to participate.

On September 1st, we are invited to engage in a “21 Day Anti-Racism Challenge.” This resource is found at <https://dscumc.org/religion-and-race/dsc-race/> and will include links to articles, videos, and readings to help us learn and talk about racism. You are encouraged to participate in this three-week activity, either individually or in small groups.

You can also sign up to join a three-week virtual small group opportunity through <https://dscumc.org/religion-and-race/dsc-race/> during the 21-Day Anti-Racism Challenge. The class is free, but space is limited, so sign up soon.

I long for a world in which the image of God in each person is recognized and honored by all. I hope you will join the Desert Southwest Conference in working together to ensure that racism has no future.

Thanks for listening –

Matt

P.S. by Rev. Paul Cho

Jacob Blake's shooting this past week has my heart and mind in knots. We are still grieving for George Floyd. We are still demanding justice for Breonna Taylor. There are so many victims that it would fill this entire newsletter and then some. It is soul crushing that the list grows so quickly.

Before you mistake me for being naive, I also want to acknowledge the particular burden this society has placed on law enforcement. We treat them like our society's janitor. We fail to take care of our own people, our own children, our own neighborhoods and we, like Esau, ask "Am I my brother's keeper?" The truth is, yes, we are. But we fail to rise to the needs of our neighbors and for too long we have pushed, shoved, dropped off, and otherwise swept our inconvenient civil burden under the carpet of law enforcement. On this matter, make no mistake, the public has in many ways failed to uphold our common responsibilities as good citizens.

Also, let us be clear, that the Black Lives Matter is not for the abolishment of law enforcement. It is not to diminish or dismiss the lives that our underappreciated officers put on the line every day with every call they respond to. Black Lives Matter is a movement to bring awareness to the systemic racism which has been deeply and intricately embedded in so much of what we now accept as the norm that we have become blind to oppression we have left our black siblings (and other persons of color) to endure.

The road to dismantling racism starts when we can accept that we have much to learn, much to reconcile. Joining in the efforts laid by our conference is something we can do right now, even during pandemic. May the Spirit bolden your faith to do so.

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THIS WEEK'S  
ANNOUNCEMENTS & GATHERINGS

## Women on a Spiritual Quest

Meet with WSQ for book studies and the best kind of Methodist small group accountability. Beginning August 24th. **Mon @ 4:30PM.**

<https://dscumc.zoom.us/j/92059519248?pwd=ZmN4dTFCCcVVCVjINM3FHUHVVemNFdz09>

**ZID: 920 5951 9248**

**PW: 6226481**

## Exploring Biblical Wisdom

Gather for group Lectio Divina as we seek spiritual formation through scripture reading, reflecting, and sharing the Spirit that lives in each of us. **Tues @ 11AM.**

<https://dscumc.zoom.us/j/98179862680?pwd=ck15OU5KbWUyY0NwOUNxbzJkOUVBUT09>

**ZID: 981 7986 2680**

**PW: 6226481**

## Music Workshop

We are on break this week! Please join Music Ministry Director Lorena Suarez as she tours the world music scene. **Wed @ 5:30PM. (Starts September 9th)**

<https://dscumc.zoom.us/j/92978304567?pwd=Mmo4UWZtc012TUxzVS9VYXlpVU1iZz09>

**ZID: 929 7830 4567**

**PW: 6226481**

## Progressive Christianity Book Study

Explore the richness of progressive Christian thought through literature. **Thurs @ 2PM.**

<https://dscumc.zoom.us/j/98015738087?pwd=eGFpVWRCUnZraWxUU1d0anRiU2pFQT09>

**ZID: 980 1573 8087**

**PW: 6226481**

## Sunday Morning Live!

Join us live on Sunday mornings on Facebook livestream. **Sun @ 10AM**

Visit [fb.com/firstchurhtucson/live](https://fb.com/firstchurhtucson/live)

## Sunday Morning Fellowship

Join on Zoom for fellowship immediately following the live stream. **Sun @ 10:30AM**

<https://dscumc.zoom.us/j/97274927766?pwd=bVlqNmZjTk84bHFHd0JRS0U5R0c4Zz09>

**ZID: 972 7492 7766**

**PW: 6226481**

## Korean Language Ministry

한국어 사역 온라인모임을 소개합니다. 주일 오전 1130 폐복 실시간 방송이 있습니다.

[fb.com/tucsonkoreanchurch/live](https://www.facebook.com/tucsonkoreanchurch/live)

방송 직후 Zoom을 통해 교제의 시간에 초대합니다.

<https://dscumc.zoom.us/j/99861120822?pwd=VWlyZ3FrM2ZrNHhrVIRlNHc1NTBLQT09>

**ZID: 998 6112 0822**

**PW: 6226481**

또한, 금 오후 7시에 (기존 토요일 새벽 기도회 대신) 온라인 모임을 위에 표시된 Zoom 가상 공간에서 갖고, 일요일 오후 1시에는 한어권 청년들의 모임이 따로 있습니다.

## Support the Ministries at First Church Tucson

Now is the time to give courageously to ministries that matter to you.

Visit this [link](#) or go to [www.bit.ly/givetofumc](http://www.bit.ly/givetofumc) to set up online donation.

You may also send gifts via Paypal to recipient address: [finance@firstchurchtucson.org](mailto:finance@firstchurchtucson.org)

And as always, you can mail in checks to the church office. Alternatively, have your IRA advisor automatically make payments from your IRA to the FUMC checking account.

## COVID-19 Survey at First Church Tucson

Help our church plan ahead. Go to [www.bit.ly/fumcsurvey](http://www.bit.ly/fumcsurvey) and tell us your thoughts about reopening and in-person gatherings.

If you've received the survey by mail, please return it to 915 E 4th St, Tucson, AZ 85719.

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### THIS WEEK'S BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Juyeon Lee (Sept 1)  
Virginia Shepherd (Sept 1)  
Diane Russell (Sept 3)  
Leonard Santos (Sept 5)

Gretchen & Pedro Lopez (September 1, 2018)  
Randy & Peggy Ford (September 2, 1966)

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SONG FOR **THOUGHT**  
“Psalm 149, Op. 79”  
**Antonín Dvořák**

by **Lorena Suarez**

Director of Music Ministries on August 28, 2020

Antonín Leopold Dvořák (1841 - 1904) was a Czech composer and organist. His compositional style is mainly Nationalist. His works are influenced melodically and rhythmically by the folk music from Moravia and Bohemia.

Dvořák composed the original version of *Psalm 149* for male choir and orchestra in 1879. It was commissioned by the Prague Hlahol Choral Society. In 1888, he arranged this piece for mixed chorus. This second version was published in Berlin by Nicolaus Simrock. The text was written originally in Czech and German. Also, there is an English version by Mrs. John P. Morgan.

The piece is in one movement, *Allegro moderato*. In the key of C major. The length is around 9 minutes long. First, there is an orchestral introduction full of contrasts and dynamics. Then, a powerful choir makes its entrance. Enjoy!

**Lyrics (English version):**

Praise and sing, O sing a new song to Jehovah,  
To His honour glad resound your joyful Hallelujah!  
Sound aloud His praise, your voices raising  
Sing a new song to Jehovah!  
Laud and praise Him, all His people, laud your God, the Lord!  
Joyous, triumph, Zion, in thy maker, joy thee and sing!  
Be joyful, children of Israel, in your glorious king!

Joy thee, O Israel, in thy maker.  
To the dance with harp and timbrel singing,  
Praises to His name all, glorious bringing!  
Praise Him in the dance to harptone singing  
Laud His name, all sons of Zion, bringing!

For God in His people hath His delight,  
Will beautify them with His salvation;  
Let the saints rejoice in glory,  
Let them sing aloud upon their beds,  
Praise to God their mouth be ever singing.

## Suggested recording:

Boston Symphony Orchestra and Seiji Ozawa

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2\\_LcOk3jExY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2_LcOk3jExY)

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## LECTIO DIVINA PRAYER GUIDE

for Individuals and Families

CENTERING - *Practice Square Breathing*

- Inhale for 4 seconds, hold for 4 seconds,
- Exhale for 4 seconds, hold for 4 seconds.
- Repeat as necessary.

SONG OF PRAISE

Select a song of your choice, or  
Refer to this week's Song for Thought

OPENING PRAYER - *Psalm 19:14*

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart  
be acceptable to you,  
O Lord, my rock and my redeemer. Amen.

READING

Matthew 16:21-28

REFLECTING

Take a minute or two in silence.  
Allow your thoughts to rest on a word, a phrase, a memory from this passage.  
Journal or share your thoughts from this moment of meditation on the passage.

RESPONDING

Respond to the reflection through the guidance from the Holy Spirit.

MINUTE MEMOIR - by Paul Cho

Much like Peter, we also look to Jesus Christ with our hopes and expectations. We want a faith that is comforting, that is inspiring, that makes us feel good. Yet, our scripture is clear, if we choose to follow Christ, then we must take up the cross, face the suffering and even death.

Naturally, like Peter, we want none of it. And certainly, when our lives are in crisis, we are less motivated to do so. We *need* our stability, our security, our support system. And perhaps we will go out to find them elsewhere if all the church wants is our seemingly slow death of bearing the cross.

Alas, if that is all we read, we are missing the most important truth, that Jesus died and was resurrected! There is life when we have surrendered it for the sake of the cross. There is hope even in the midst of suffering. That hope is already proven victorious!

So let us, with a bold faith, take up the cross, not just to bear the cross that leads to a

selfless love, but also so that we might experience the resurrection and reconciliation that Christ brings.

## RESTING

Dwell in your reflection and response.  
Take time to offer God praise and glory.  
Repent and seek forgiveness.  
Offer joys and the concerns, adding in your personal prayers.  
Lastly, offer a thanksgiving for God's grace and mercy.

## CLOSING PRAYER *Wesley Covenant Service Prayer*

I am no longer my own, but yours.  
Put me to what you will, rank me with whom you will;  
put me to doing, put me to suffering;  
let me be employed for you, or laid aside for you,  
exalted for you, or brought low for you;  
let me be full,  
let me be empty,  
let me have all things,  
let me have nothing:  
I freely and wholeheartedly yield all things  
to your pleasure and disposal.  
And now, glorious and blessed God,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
you are mine and I am yours. So be it.  
And the covenant now made on earth, let it be ratified in heaven.  
Amen.



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