

**Virtual Evening Prayer Service on the 'Just Mercy' movie.**  
**Conversations with Fr. Tim Hickey on Systemic Racism and White Privilege, 6:45-9:00 p.m., Thursday, July 23, 2020, in Zoom Meeting.**  
**Our Lady Queen of Peace, Arlington, VA. Hosted by Minkisi Ministry, Cecilia Braveboy, Coordinator. Jeff Corry, Music Director. (See separate document, "Zoom – OLQP Participant Instructions.")**

**~~WORSHIP GUIDE - PRAYER & RACIAL DIALOGUE ~~**

6:45 pm – Participants enter Zoom (mics muted).

6:50 – Prelude – Prayer Service begins with music medley - "The Lord is my Light and my salvation." ( Jeff Corry). View "Just Mercy" movie video clip and prayer.

Welcome - Prayer and Racial Dialogue task. – Cecilia Braveboy  
(Use chat room for comments throughout.)

Prayer – Fr. Tim Hickey.

Scripture Reading – 1 Peter 2:4-5, 8-11. Reader: Wilfred Braveboy

First round of conversations

Second round of conversations

Homily and 'Spiritual Anointing' – Fr. Tim

Dialogue Questions:

1. We are all created in God's image and likeness. In the Spirit of the Living God, how does racism and white privilege affect me personally?
2. What are my hopes for transformation and the end of systemic racism and white privilege?

(For Individual Silent Response- 5 mins. Use chat room for comments.

Followed by Large Group Response- ( a sampling of responses, up to 2 mins. each).

Feedback (via chat now or email). Acknowledgements and Announcements

Closing prayer from "Requiem for Black Children of God" (see this worship guide)

Prayer of the Faithful – Reader: Wilfred Braveboy

Response: **Lord, we plead with You, heal our land.**

Remarks and Final Blessing – Fr. Tim

9:00 p.m. End

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**†Scripture Reading: 1 Peter 2: 4-5, 8-11.**

A reading from the first letter of Peter.

Come to him, a living stone, rejected by men but approved, nonetheless, and precious in God's eyes. You too are living stones, built as an edifice of spirit, into a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. The stone is of value for you who have faith. For those without faith, it is rather, "A stone which the builders rejected that became a cornerstone."

It is likewise "an obstacle and a stumbling stone." Those who stumble and fall are the disbelievers in God's word; it belongs to their destiny to do so.

You, however, are "a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people he claims for his own to proclaim the glorious works" of the One who called you from darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were no people, but now you are God's people; once there was no mercy for you, but now you have found mercy.

The Word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God.**

**†CLOSING PRAYER - Bishop Fernand Cheri's prayer from the "Requiem for Black Children of God"** composed after the killing of Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, George Floyd and others in June, 2020.

**O God, forgive us for being a party to injustice  
in the lives of these your children,  
our Black sisters and brothers,  
and all victims of systemic racism  
in these United States.**

**Forgive us for not seeing them as coheirs to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.**

**Forgive us for not hearing their cries,  
"I CAN'T BREATHE" or  
"HANDS UP, DON'T SHOOT."**

**Forgive us for not lifting them up as your children,  
precious in your sight.**

**Increase our strength, we pray, O Lord,  
that we may drink deeply of love's power  
and everywhere promote your justice and  
peace. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

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O Lord, help us to be attentive to your commands. Help us to walk in unity. Help us to celebrate who we are and whose we are. Help us to overcome selfishness, anger and violence in our hearts, our homes, our Church, our world. Help us to knock down, pull down, shout down the walls of racism, sexism, classism, materialism, and militarism that divide and separate us. Help us to live as your united people, proclaiming with one voice, our faith, our hope, our love, our joy. --*Servant of God Sr. Thea Bowman, F.S.P.A, Songs of My People.*



**Definitions for Conversations (taken from Catholic Volunteer Network):**

Racism: Any attitude, action, or institutional structure which subordinates a person or group because of their color. Privilege + Power = Racism.

White Privilege: Unearned advantages that white people acquire based on their European-American descent and/or physical appearance including higher expectations, benefit of the doubt, positive stereotyping, and preferential treatment.

Systemic Racism, quote taken from an National Catholic Reporter article by Fr Bryan Massingale: “That Amy Cooper is not simply a rogue white person or a mean-spirited white woman who did an odious thing. Yes, we should and must condemn her words and actions. But we don’t want to admit that there is a lot more to this story. That she knew, we all know, that she had the support of an unseen yet very real apparatus of collective thoughts, fears, beliefs, practices and history. This is what we mean by systemic racism. I could call it white supremacy, although I know that white people find that term even more of a stumbling block than white privilege.”



Photo by protestors Phyliss L. and Anthony Johnson, June 2020

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**Sister Thea Bowman: National Witness to Possibility of Racial Harmony, By Father Maurice Nutt.** Posted by Tereza Ma, [www.mississippicatholic.com/2020/06](http://www.mississippicatholic.com/2020/06).

Recently a fellow priest friend told me that a parishioner called him because she was troubled by the way that George Floyd was being hailed as a saint by the media. "He wasn't a saint," she quipped. The priest replied, "No, he wasn't a saint, but neither are you and I, we are all sinners in need of God's grace and forgiveness." We've watched the excruciating video of an apprehended 46-year-old African American man by four Minneapolis police officers, hand-cuffed face down on the ground as one of the police officers relentlessly pressed his knee into his neck for eight minutes and forty-six seconds. Floyd in anguish cried out, "Please, I can't breathe" to no avail and became unconscious and died of asphyxiation. Moments after George Floyd's murder and continuing on today protests have erupted globally in cities large and small. The protesters have been multiracial and intergenerational indicating that they are united in their quest for justice and racial harmony. The demands for racial justice and equality, an end to racial violence, and police reform have reverberated incessantly. No, George Floyd was not a saint, but he remains a symbol of something much more insidious: the sin of racism. This sin is an ever-present reminder that some people and institutions who have economic, social, cultural, political power and privilege deliberately or unwittingly subjugate and oppress those who do not enjoy equal power and privilege. Some social and economic advances notwithstanding, racism and discrimination continues to plague the vast majority of people of color in our nation. Systemic racism has been present in our country since 1619, the year that enslaved Africans were brought to the shores of what would eventually become the United States. Thus, for four hundred years African Americans have fought for justice and equality: a fight that has never been fair nor equal. Four hundred years marked by the era of slavery, Reconstruction, "Jim Crow" segregation, the Civil Rights Movement, and the Black Lives Matter Movement. The struggle has been for the respect of their humanity and recognition as being created in the image and likeness of God — like all humanity. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. said, "Protest is the language of the unheard." Protest is also the language of those who are tired of fighting and want the dominant culture to hear and to understand. The voices crying out for the eradication of racism are not only being heard from the voices of the protesters on our city streets but from religious women and men, priests, laity, theologians, Bishops, and even from Pope Francis.

Cardinal Blase Cupich of Chicago said, "People of color suffer discrimination and indignities not only from racist individuals, but from the very structures erected by our society that were meant to protect the vulnerable." Pope Francis instructs us, "We cannot tolerate or turn a blind eye to racism and exclusion in any form and yet claim to defend the sacredness of every human life." And still there is yet another voice of one who walked and worked among us and continues to call us to intercultural appreciation and racial reconciliation, Servant of God Sister Thea Bowman, FSPA. Here is her testimony: "I can be a bridge over troubled water. I can take you by the hand and take you with me into the black community. I can walk with you into your community, and if I walk with you into your community, I don't enter as a stranger, I walk as your sister." We have a Mississippian who was a national witness to the possibility of racial healing and reconciliation. Sister Thea believed that we all must work to tear down the walls of racial division in our segregated and polarized society and church by making the effort to truly be in contact with one another: to get to know another's story, their joys, sorrows, hopes and dreams. She was emphatic that the church as the Body of Christ must first confess her sin of racism, make amends and come to a place of healing and reconciliation. Then and only then can the church be a leader in racial healing globally. Sister Thea said: "May the Spirit within us and among us inspire us to keep on keeping on, in our homes and families, in our communities and in our church. May the Spirit inspire us, and may we share our spiritual and cultural gifts with the church and with the world. We've come this far by faith. Can't turn around." Sister Thea, pray for us!

*(Father Maurice J. Nutt, C.Ss.R. is a Redemptorist Missionary. Reverend Dr. Nutt's areas of research and interests include pastoral theology, homiletics, African American culture, and the intersectionality of the church and the work of justice.) <https://www.mississippicatholic.com/2020/06/19/sister-thea-bowman-national-witness-to-possibility-of-racial-harmony/>*

**We give honor and praise to God for Congressman John Lewis. This civil rights icon, prayer warrior & faithful servant died on July 17, 2020, but his non-violent, determined spirit remains with us. "So go out there and be a headlight and not a tail light. Get out there and get in the way, get in good trouble, necessary trouble." –Congressman John Lewis.**