



MATTHEW 25

Weekday Devotions

Matthew 25 as the Good News

Why Matthew 25?

Matthew 25:31-46 is a bold new vision and invitation from the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) that calls us to actively engage in the world around us. We are called to act boldly and compassionately to serve the people who are hungry, oppressed, imprisoned and poor. The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) seeks to become a Matthew 25 denomination and invites congregations and mid councils to join in this journey. Accepting the Matthew 25 invitation means embracing one or more of three foci in your community: building congregational vitality, dismantling structural racism, and eradicating systemic poverty.

Become a Matthew 25 church — transform your community and the world. Find more information and resources at: pcusa.org/matthew25.

Acknowledgements

Devotions written by Rev. Dr. So Jung Kim, Associate for Theology in the Office of Theology and Worship, Presbyterian Church, U.S.A.

Images of quilts made by Sacred Ally Quilt Ministry. Photos included are from their website (www.saqm.org) and also taken by So Jung Kim while on exhibit: *Contemplating the Images of God*.

About Sacred Ally Quilt Ministry:

The Sacred Ally Quilt Ministry uses the narrative art of quilting as both a healing balm and a catalyst for transformation. We hope that in viewing the quilts, people are led not only to remembrance, but to reflection and action. By creating space for sacred conversations within our communities, we begin to wash away the sin of white supremacy and racism—little by little, stitch by stitch.



See Our Neighbors Eradicating Poverty

Monday

Do you see me?

I live one block away from you.
I sometimes stand at the corner of your grocery store.
Or, on that bench, under that tree, in your favorite park, in your neighborhood.

Sometimes, you run away from me and build your new neighborhood.

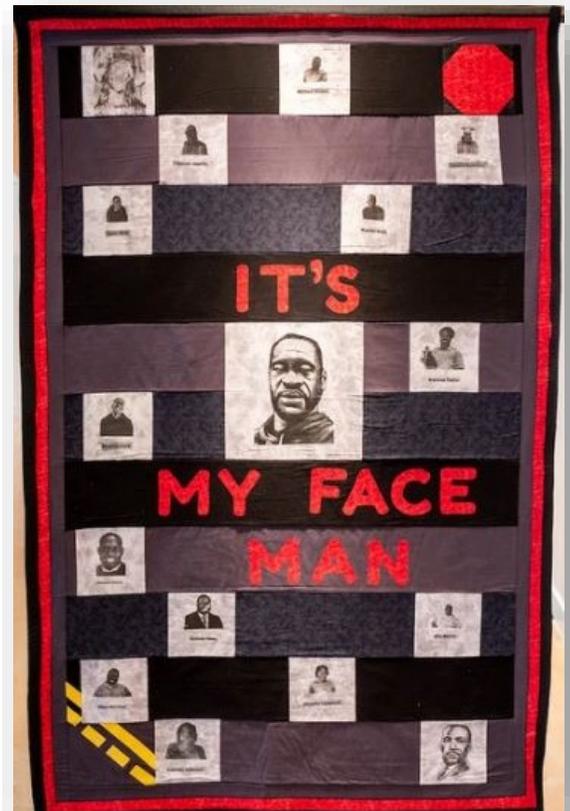
Sometimes, my neighborhood gets wiped out so you can build your new fancy houses and malls over my yard.

And yet, you'd say NIMBY, if I ever try to keep my residence at a corner of your big yard, so I get to live maybe 25 miles away from your neighborhood then.

Still, I am your neighbor. You can also become my neighbor too, in my neighborhood, anytime.

I dream of the day that our becoming and unbecoming of each other's neighbors does not eradicate our livelihoods. I dream that someday, we will eradicate the fear and become each other's neighbor.

Do you now see me?



Breathing Prayer

Inhale: God's image in my neighbor.

Exhale: Let us see that image of God.

Repeat when Spirit-led.

Know our Ancestors Dismantling Racism

Tuesday

Do you know my ancestors?

They lived in the same household as your ancestors.

Your ancestors lived in a mansion, mine in a shed near that mansion.

Your ancestors traveled here to dominate, mine to be enslaved by yours.

Your ancestors traveled here to occupy, mine to be battered and murdered by yours.

Your ancestors traveled here to build a wall, mine through a small door yours made in that wall.

But do you know? My ancestors already called this land the "Turtle Island."

Your ancestors ignored it and instead called this land "America" the "New England."

Your ancestors marked my ancestors' home with odd names of your "new" whichever.

Like that, your ancestors dismissed our memories, stories, and civilizations.

Thanks to your ancestors' barbaric colonialism and negligent imperialism,

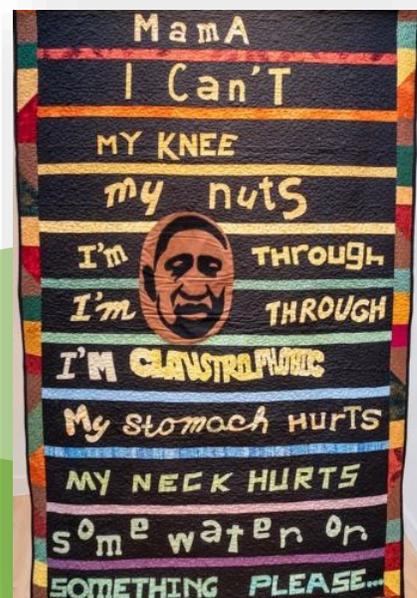
You can now pretend you are civil, while we are uncivil.

My ancestors had a great civilization and rich history in their home.

Your ancestors told us that this land is a beautiful country (美國), a country of the American Dream.

But where is our dream?

Do you know?



Sing and Weep Together

Congregational Vitality

Wednesday

Sing joy and touch the wounds.

With my neighbors, I sing the songs our ancestors taught us.
From my neighbors, I learn the songs their ancestors taught them.
To my neighbors, I share the songs my ancestors taught us.

As we sing with our neighbors,
from them, and to them the songs of our ancestors,
Their joy becomes mine, their wounds become mine,
My joy transmits to them, they recognize my ancestors' joy,

As we weep together,
I recognize their wounds, and they recognize my wounds,
Their ancestors become mine, and my ancestors become theirs.

We sing together for our joy, we weep together,
and touch and heal our wounds.

We share joy and cry together,
For us and for our children.



Breathing Prayers

Inhale: We sing

Exhale: their joy

Inhale: We release

Exhale: their wounds

Inhale: We touch

Exhale: our wounds

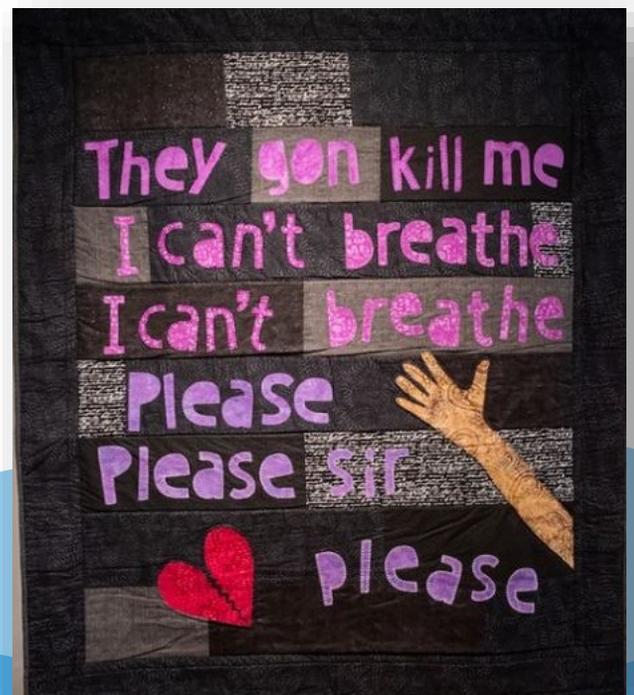
Inhale: We heal

Exhale: our wounds

Inhale: God is here

Exhale: with us.

Repeat when Spirit-led.



Feel Our Creation Climate Crisis

Come up with a prayer about God's creation in relation to your feelings and physical senses. Feel how all creation is connected to each other regardless of the distance between us.

Here are two of our prayers:

A Prayer for the Sea

by Rev. Mark Koenig

We thank you, God,
for the beauty of the sea,
the wonder of the waves,
and the scent of the salt.

We are grateful for
how the sea revives us.
Teach us to care well for the sea.
We pray in the name of Jesus,
who walked on the water.

Feeling the Connection through the Sea

by Rev. Dr. So Jung Kim

The sea here is good enough to remind me
of the beauty and abundance of the East Sea 동해 of my
motherland.
Life has ups and downs, just like the unpredictable wave at
every sea level.
The sea was singing and transmitting the song of my
motherland.
The sea was comforting me with hope and assurance.
The sea was sending the scents of sea life through the wind
- salty and wet.

It is okay to move and swim in the wave.
Let your body and soul float.
Feel every particle of it.
Breathe every drop of it.

All shall be well.



Recognize Power Militarism

"Justice is what love looks like in public just like tenderness is what love feels like in private."

-- Dr. Cornel West

Love has power.
Love wins.

Power, only in the form of Love, is everywhere.
Power, only in the form of Love, belongs to everyone.
Power, only in the form of Love, can be just only when shared.
Power, only in the form of Love, life-giving.
Power, only in the form of Love, is just.

If power is abused,
We all lose. Nobody wins.

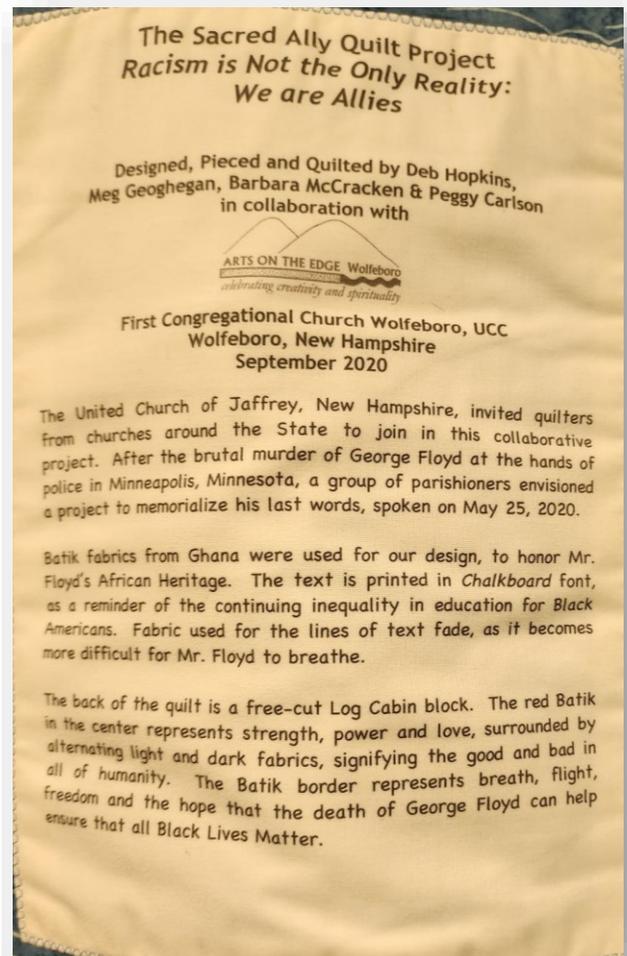
If power is used in places of hate, instead of Love,
For condemnation, violence, guns, and wars,
We all die. Nobody lives.

Only Love wins.
Love has power.
To give life.
To transform our hearts.

Breathing & Embodied Prayer

Inhale – (while raising your hands) Love is Power.
Exhale – (while lowering your hands) Love wins.

Repeat when Spirit-led.



Empower Love Gender Justice

Saturday

*"Justice is what love looks like in public just like
tenderness is what love feels like in private."*

-- Dr. Cornel West

Love is patient.
Love is gentle.
Love is tender.
Love is humble.
Love is confident.
Love is unconditional.
Love endures.
Love trusts.
Love heals, not hurts.
Love embraces who we are.

Love is Love.

As long as it is patient, gentle, tender, humble,
confident, unconditional, persevering, trusting,
healing, and authentic.

And now these three remain: faith, hope, and love.
But the greatest of these is love.

Breathing & Embodied Prayer

Inhale – (while raising your hands) Love is Love.

Exhale – (while lowering your hands) Love heals.

Inhale – (while raising your hands) Love is Love.

Exhale – (while lowering your hands) Love heals.

Repeat when Spirit-led.



