



EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN CONNECTICUT
PARTICIPATING IN GOD'S MISSION

"Transformation is a process, and as life happens there are tons of ups and downs. It's a journey of discovery - there are moments on mountaintops and moments in deep valleys of despair." (Rick Warren)

Transformation

My friends, during this Season of Racial Healing, Justice, and Reconciliation, we are being invited into a time where we each must have the courage to ask - what needs transformation in our lives? For some of us, the need is to be transformed in the way we view ourselves. We live in a very intolerant and unforgiving society that demands action, performance, and success. Not making the grade is unsatisfactory. Such a state of personal disrespect requires transformation. Yes, we all need to be able to look into a mirror and not only see, but fully believe, that the reflection we view is a child of God.

For some, transformation of our attitudes toward others is needed. Sometimes we place people on the margins and fringes. There are times, as well, that we place ourselves above others. We separate and differentiate between people - those who can help us and those who can't, those we consider friends and those we don't, those who have the right skin color, or religion, and those who don't. We can create a destructive atmosphere in our relationships with others, without lifting a single finger. Our attitudes, words, and actions can be used to uplift people up or used to tear them down...the choice is ours.

Finally, I would like to suggest that all of us need to transform our faith practice. Our conversation with God must be central to the life of all people of faith, yet too often the busy contemporary lifestyle we lead causes us to find and make excuses for not taking time to pray. Transformation means we make prayer a priority and make no excuses.

Transformation takes courage, because if we do it well, the personal discoveries may lead to revelation. As the Season of Racial Healing, Justice, and Reconciliation continues, let us look into our hearts, and ask the difficult question: "What needs to be transformed in my life?"



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Then, with a renewed sense of purpose, let us courageously go forth and seek new beginnings in attitude, personal conduct, and faith. Let us be transformed in Christ, the one who died to set us free and will one day bring us to eternal life. Amen.

The Rev. Tracy Johnson Russell, Rector, Rector, St. Monica's Episcopal Church

Recent added resources to Season webpages:

1. African American History & Heritage site; Black Heritage Travel in Connecticut. (links to other New England states):

<http://creativefolk.com/travel/ct.html>

2. "Sacred Ground," 10-part film- and reading based dialogue series on race and faith, produced by The Episcopal Church, and built around an online curriculum of documentary films and readings that focus on Indigenous, Black, Latino, and Asian/Pacific American histories as they intersect with European American histories. Open to all; especially designed to help White people talk with other White people. The Rev. Canon Stephanie Spellers has suggesting thinking of the series as a "pilgrimage in place." Free one-hour webinars on Sacred Ground, hosted by Katrina Browne, are offered April 8, May 6, and June 11. More info here: <https://bit.ly/2FCT8Ud>

The Episcopal Church in Connecticut (ECCT) entered a "Season of Racial Healing, Justice, and Reconciliation" for a minimum of two years by vote of its Annual Convention in October 2018. [Visit episcopalct.org/season-of-racial-healing-justice-and-reconciliation/](http://episcopalct.org/season-of-racial-healing-justice-and-reconciliation/) to read the enabling resolution and for resources, events, and more. ECCT's Racial Healing, Justice, and Reconciliation Ministry Network is helping to facilitate much of the resolution's implementation. Contact the Rev. Rowena Kemp or Suzy Burke, co-conveners of the Ministry Network, at rowjkemp@gmail.com or suzy@alegiraimports.net.

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