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EQUITY TEAM UPDATE

In June 2020, HTLC friend and consultant Alicia Sojourner presented a report on institutional racism at HTLC, uncovering areas ripe for change in our church. In response, in September, the Racial Justice (RJ) workgroup convened a team to dig into the messy work of undoing racism in our spiritual community. Our team included two existing RJ members: Teresa Butel (chair), Keith Olstad, and six new members: Donna Goodlaxson, Jess Daniel Hart, Ryana Holt, Pamela Kildahl, Scott Cole, and Jeff Weiss.

In our first meeting, we re-read the report aloud and shared how it resonated in our bodies. This felt-sense of the necessity for change propelled us over the next six months, in which Alicia led a process that resulted in a “HTLC Congregational RJ Action Plan.” This sounds official, yet is truly a menu of possible actions for 2021-2024. From this menu, we picked a few actions to prioritize, where our group has energy to lead:

Goal Area 1: Racial Justice in Church Culture: Convene small groups where congregants can learn and discuss racial implications of our current physical worship space, agree on key changes that might be needed, and make these changes happen.

Goal Area 2: Racial Justice in Community Engagements: Take inventory and assess opportunities within HTLC’s partnerships focused on racial justice. Share findings with congregants about how we might work with partners on racial justice issues.

Goal Area 3: Racial Justice in Church Operations: Connect with HTLC committees to improve communication and sharpen commitments to racial justice across all church activities. Work closely with Deacon David to support youth leadership in this work. Connect with the staff equity team* and support project management overall so we remain accountable.

*Our process *did not* address important issues related to staffing or staff culture, which will be a focus of the staff equity team and HTLC Personnel Committee. This work is currently paused until post-trial to allow staff to focus on the important community response role we have to play around potential uprisings. We also *have not yet* incorporated existing Holy Trinity initiatives which are connected; however, that is a priority in our next phase.

One of the most important outcomes of our work has been the deepening of shared understanding and commitment from our eight team members around undoing institutional racism at HTLC. These members are now joining the RJ workgroup, and together we’ll use the action plan to guide work going forward. In the past two weeks, our team shared the plan with the RJ workgroup, staff, and Council; all expressed support and appreciation.

(Cont. in next column)

PALM SUNDAY

READINGS

Mark 11:1-11; Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16;
Philippians 2:5-11; Mark 14:1—15:47

ADULT FORUM

Login at zoom.us or call 312-626-6799 or click [here](#)
Meeting ID: 858 5687 1594 / Password: 317879

To view the recorded Adult Forum from March 21, [click here](#).

SUNDAYS, 9:30 A.M.

MARCH 28 “The Book of Job:
Despite Everything God is Good”
Rowland Joiner

Presented by Rowland Joiner, Methodist Minister from the United Kingdom who engaged in pastoral work and training and coaching ministers.

APRIL 4 EASTER SUNDAY—NO ADULT FORUM

(Equity Team Update cont.) We plan to have more specific invitations on how others can engage in this work soon. For now, we’d like to invite congregants with interest to start by (re)reading [Alicia’s report](#) and our [executive summary of the action plan](#), and then to reach out to Jess Daniel Hart (jess.a.daniel@gmail.com) to have a conversation on how your interests and gifts might fit in.

—Jess Daniel Hart, for the HT Equity Team

BLACK LIVES MATTER

The Church Council recently made the decision to install a Black Lives Matter flag on the church rooftop. (Council minutes are available on the member-only page on the church website.) Made possible by generous gifts from member Pam Kildahl and the estate of Helen Cotton, the installation has been completed. When you walk, bike, or drive by, remember to glance up and be reminded of the beauty and belovedness of Black lives.



PARISH INFORMATION

MAUNDY THURSDAY WORSHIP **LIVE** ON ZOOM

Remember how lovely it was to enjoy a meal of homemade soup and bread with your family and friends on Maundy Thursday and then head down to the Bartsch Room to worship together? Hasn't it also been a gift to be able to "see" our siblings in Christ at our congregational meetings this year. We'd like to invite you and your beloveds to join others from our faith community on Thursday, April 1, at 6:00 p.m. to gather together with other households over Zoom to do just that.

Set your table, cook up your favorite soup or chili recipe, bake some bread (or visit your favorite neighborhood bakery), position your laptop at the table, and have a candle (or two) ready to light, and a bowl of water and towel to wash hands. Deacon David will lead us in praising God for the water around us. We'll hear Jesus' words to his followers to "love one another," and remember his surprising act of servant leadership in washing the feet of his friends. We will bless the bread of life and the cup of salvation with those in our homes, just as we have all year long, but this will feel a little different, as we witness even out of the corner of our eyes, our siblings in Christ sharing likewise in their own homes. We will be together; synced in time and in spirit.

Why not check in with someone you've been longing to see and let them know you're hoping to eat and worship with them on Maundy Thursday? Oh, and please don't stress over wiggly, active young ones! We'll actually encourage you to stay muted throughout so that some wondering conversations can happen around your table.

The Zoom link will be sent to all who receive weekly worship videos on or before Thursday, April 1. If you wish to be added to the worship email list, contact Sue Roberts (sroberts@htlcmpls.org).

HOLY WEEK AT HOLY TRINITY

On Thursday, April 1, we will meet for Maundy Thursday worship on Zoom (see the announcement above). Good Friday, Easter Vigil, and Easter worship services will all be video links. As part of our gathering, we would like to share a meal! If you would like to pick-up a free meal for your household from one of our local immigrant-owned restaurants, please fill out this form: <https://forms.gle/9fYwtRUvJDdooXpB9>. Requests must be received by **Friday, March 26**. Delivery is available for those who need it. Instructions for pick-up will be emailed closer to the date.

WORSHIP SERVICE FROM MARCH 21, 2021

The worship service for March 21, 2021, can be viewed by clicking [here](#).

2020 THRIVENT CHOICE® DOLLARS EXPIRE MARCH 31, 2021

Since 2010, over \$370 million has been distributed to thousands of churches, schools, and other nonprofits through Thrivent Choice®. Through this program, eligible members can recommend where Thrivent donates millions of charitable outreach dollars each year. Please consider recommending Holy Trinity for your Thrivent Choice Dollars. If you need help with Thrivent's website, click [here](#) for a step-by-step tutorial that Pam Blomgren has put together.

WEDNESDAYS DURING LENT

The Lord will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail. Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in. Isaiah 58:11-12

These beautiful words point to our theme for Lent this year, *Emerging Anew*. Wednesdays in Lent we will again use Holden Evening Prayer. In addition to the liturgy and music, speakers will share reflections on this *Emerging Anew* theme during each of the Wednesday services. This week's service includes a powerful interview with member Mark Symchych. The link will be emailed and posted on Wednesday.

BECOME A MEMBER OF HOLY TRINITY

We at Holy Trinity believe that community is integral to faith, which is why we invite interested persons to consider membership in this congregation. If you or someone you know is interested in formalizing your relationship with this community, please let one of the pastors know, or contact the office (office@htlcmpls.org). The Spirit works in amazing ways, even during this period of physical separation.

MINNEAPOLIS AREA SYNOD ASSEMBLY (VIRTUAL)

Friday, April 23, 6:00–9:00 p.m.

Saturday, April 24, 9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

The Minneapolis Area Synod gathers annually to conduct business in the Synod Assembly, which is the synod's highest legislative authority. More than 600 participants attend the Synod Assembly each year, including representatives from each congregation and all active rostered leaders. The gathering is filled with worship, inspiration, presentations, and necessary business. Under the theme "Jubilee Reclaimed: Opening the Way," synod assembly participants will explore Biblical insights into the general welfare of the community. Can we imagine together ways to explore opportunities for the Church to be the leading edge of caring for the vulnerable in our world?

Holy Trinity seeks three people to attend as our representatives. Please talk to a pastor if you are interested.

SWAHILI WORDS FOR TODAY

Another quarantine opportunity: Learn some Swahili words! Pastor Andrea will teach us some common Swahili words and phrases.

Worship: **Ibada**
Fellowship: **faragha ya Pamoja**
Songs/Hymns: **Nyimbo**.