



grow. pray. serve.

Reveille UMC Weekly Guide

June 7-13, 2021

Sermon by Rev. Kelley Lane

3rd Sunday After Pentecost

Sermon Title: *"Persistence and Resistance"*

Notes from sermon on 6/06:

To pray for this week:

Family Focus Question

Can you identify a need for change in our community (Richmond and the surrounding counties) that you are willing to put time and energy into so that all of us will be better able to thrive?

Questions for Small Groups

1. Are you in a small group now? If yes, how has this group impacted your life? If no, what group might you be interested in joining?
2. Have you ever worked on a justice issue with a group? Did you feel your work made an impact in your community?
3. If you could change one aspect of our world what would that be and why? How will this bring us closer to God's kingdom coming?

Monday, June 7: Read Luke 18:1-8

Last week marked the anniversary of George Floyd's murder. There was also another mass shooting – this time in San Jose, California. We are exhausted and frustrated by the continuing and unnecessary deaths that both of these events remind us of. We can grow tired and accustomed to violence, injustice, and pain in our world, or we can cry out to God – how long, O God? This can't go on!

The widow in today's scripture demonstrates both persistence in prayer and persistence in resisting social injustice. In our scripture passages this week and in Kelley Lane's sermon on Sunday, we will find examples and inspiration for persistence. We will be challenged to recognize the need for personal and social transformation, and to listen for God's Spirit as we work for change.

Tuesday, June 8: Read Psalm 119:97-104

Our secondary scripture for Sunday speaks to the power of meditating on God's law in order to develop a love for God's kingdom and "hate every wrong path" (vs. 104). When we take the time to read scripture, we begin to recognize how much both Jesus and the Hebrew Scriptures focused on social justice, protecting the widow, the orphan, the stranger, the foreigner, the poor, and the outcast. Meditating on God's word means listening for both insight and instruction...what are we supposed to do with this information? What is our response to God's word?

Wednesday, June 9: Read Luke 11:5-10

We are not simply to roll up our sleeves and get to work. We as Christ's body have a much more excellent way...we pray, petition, then respond. Today's scripture offers the promise that we will never have to solve the earth's problems on our own. Rather, we are to ask, seek, and knock. Persist. Pray. Then act. Getting our hearts and minds in alignment with the God of all Creation and Light and Love gives us clarity, direction, and stamina we cannot experience on our own. It gives us access to power and connection and eternal solutions we cannot imagine.

Thursday, June 10: Read Isaiah 1:10-17

Today's very direct words from the prophet in Isaiah declare that all prayer and no action is not what God desires; in fact, God "hates" it. This passage rails against religion that is simply filled with "meaningless" celebrations and worship that is not accompanied by righteous living and love-filled action. "Learn to do right; seek justice, defend the oppressed. Take up the cause of the fatherless; plead the case of the widow" (verse 17). As we reemerge from the isolation of the pandemic and gather together again in worship and praise and prayer, will we also go out into our community with renewed vigor to seek, defend, take up, and plead?

Friday, June 11: Read Romans 12:15-18

Paul's words to the church in Rome urge the members of Christ's body to begin with empathy. When we rejoice with those who rejoice and weep with those who weep, we cannot ignore the pain, suffering, and core needs of those around us. Our fight for justice is not a license to sow discord and ill will, however. We are to "live peaceably" as much as possible within our power. We are also warned against righteous indignation, but to avoid being "wise in [our]own sight." Let us come together on Sunday to pray for God's guidance to guide us in humble, peaceable, and Spirit-guided persistence to resist wrongdoing and injustice out of love and empathy for our neighbor and all those in our community and world.

Saturday, June 12: Scripture Memorization: Isaiah 1:17

"Learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed. Take up the cause of the fatherless; plead the case of the widow." (NIV)

Sunday, June 13: Let us prepare our hearts and minds for worship in praying our Prayer of

Common Confession: *Gracious God. We confess that we do not meditate on your commands and teachings all day long. We do not keep your word before us always and in all things. Instead, we turn away from your demanding truth and wander toward easier options. Forgive us, we pray, for pursuing our own desires rather than yours. Forgive us for growing weary in following you; for failing to pray and work tirelessly for justice; for losing hope in your power to transform the powers of this world. Tune our ears to the sound of your justice. Turn our hearts to your commandments and word of grace. Do not remember our sin, but remember your mercy forever. We pray in Christ's name. Amen.*