



Weekly E-News from Grace Episcopal Church

June 19, 2020

A Weekly Message from the Rector

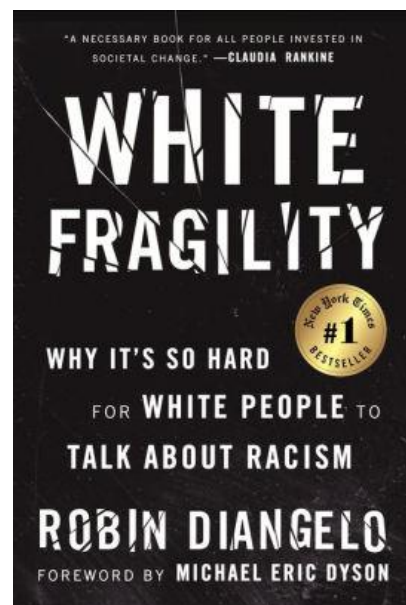


[Click here](#) or on the image above to watch.

"White Fragility" Reading Group

The Spirit is moving in unusual and important ways during these times. As we bear witness, participate in, and pray for the activism and unrest surrounding police brutality towards the Black community and racial justice in this country, many wonder - what can we do? And more specifically, what is the role of white people during this time?

We are called in our Baptismal Covenant to repent. In repenting we look inward and do the hard work of what the word repent (Greek: metanoia) literally means - change of mind. One very specific way of "changing our minds" or educating ourselves regarding racial injustice is examining the role of whiteness as a state of being and societal construct. It is also an opportunity to deeply consider how white people are conditioned to hold on to whiteness protectively and at the expense of others. It is always a good time to do this work; but now is an especially good time.



To that end, Grace Church parishioners Judith Sutphen and Drake Douglas will offer a facilitated reading of [Robin DiAngelo's White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism](#) over the course of 6 weeks, over Zoom, starting Monday, June 29 at

6pm. Participation will be expected for the full 6 weeks, through August 3. In order to best facilitate healthy discussion group size will be limited. The facilitators are happy to offer an additional reading at a later time, if needed.

An excerpt from the book's forward by preacher, author, and academic Michael Eric Dyson: "DiAngelo bravely challenges the collapse of whiteness into national identity...that the flow of white identity into American identity - of racist beliefs into national beliefs- must be met head-on with a full-throated insistence that what it means to be American is not what it means to be white, at least not exclusively, or even primarily...DiAngelo forces us to see that all politics have rested on identities, and that those identities are critical features of wrestling with how we have gone wrong in the effort to set things right - which too often has meant make them white."

Please sign up [via this form](#) and send any specific questions to Judith and Drake at jtsutphen@gmail.com and drakecdouglas@gmail.com. They will respond with the required Zoom link, as well as the first reading assignment.

Voices of Grace: Virtual Worship

At Grace Church we are committed to continue building a loving and joyful community through worship despite temporarily not being able to gather on Sundays or weekdays due to health concerns related to COVID-19. Until our normal rhythm of worship and gatherings resumes, every Sunday morning we will send an email, post on Facebook and upload to Vimeo and YouTube a short worship video put together by our staff that will feature clergy and parishioners participating in "virtual worship" by reading lessons from scripture, preaching, and making music all from their homes. Keep a



look out for Voices of Grace: Virtual Worship every Sunday morning!

If you'd like to download or print the service leaflet for this Sunday's Virtual Worship, please [click here](#).

Habits of Grace: Weekly Meditations from the Presiding Bishop

[Click here](#) or on the image to the right for weekly videos, posted every Monday throughout June from Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church, [The Most Rev. Michael Curry](#).



Courtyard Garden & Labyrinth Open

The Courtyard Garden and Labyrinth at Grace will be open for visitors between 11:00 AM and 2:00 PM, Monday through Friday as weather permits.

Guidelines for walking the Labyrinth while observing social distancing will be posted.

Our beautiful labyrinth is featured in [this newly published guide](#) to labyrinths in Connecticut and Rhode Island.



Daily Prayer Link

Inspiring readers since 1935, the Forward Day by Day meditation is a significant resource for daily prayer and Bible study to more than a half million readers worldwide. Also: pray Morning, Noonday, and Evening Prayer, plus Compline, every day; get Daily Devotions, Prayers and Thanksgivings, and the Liturgical Calendars, all linked for use online.



[Click here](#) or on the logo above to find out more!

Thank You For Sustaining Your Stewardship

As the offering plate has ceased circulating each Sunday, it is only through the deliberate continuity of stewardship by our parishioners that Grace will reliably meet its financial obligations during this period.



We know that some among us have lost jobs or seen household income disrupted by this pandemic, so we understand some may need to pause or reduce their support for a time. For this reason, we're in particular need of broad participation - and perhaps even accelerated pledge payments where possible - from those who are able.

Please mail in your pledge payments or schedule electronic contributions. If you're accustomed to placing cash contributions in the offering plate, please consider mailing a check instead. Alternatively, an outdoor mail slot is located adjacent to the reception office at The Pavilion entrance.

Electronic contributions are fast and easy to arrange [through our website](#) or by using the [GivePlus mobile app](#). We're [standing by to help](#) if anyone would like assistance setting that up.

Thank you for maintaining your support of Grace Church as we navigate through an unprecedented challenge. And thank you for joining us in prayer for all who are in need of comfort, peace and healing this Eastertide. May they find these in the never-ending love of our resurrected Christ, and may God's blessing be upon us all.

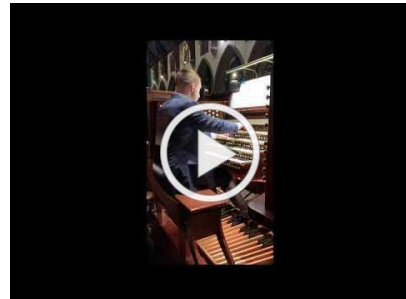
Wednesday Virtual Prayer Group

The Wednesday prayer group invites all parishioners to join them in prayer via Zoom every Wednesday at noon. If you can't make that time but would still like to have their prayer list for your own prayers, you can request that list instead. Either way, contact Adrienne Southgate at asouthgate1@cox.net to join in.



"Virtual" Thursdays at Noon Concerts June 18, 2020

Though our normal Thursdays at Noon Concert Series has been temporarily put on hold, the parish musicians will continue the music online! [Click here](#) or on the image to the right to watch David Heinze, Associate Director of Music, plays music by J.S. Bach, William Bolcolm, César Franck, and others.



June 21, 2020 The Third Sunday after Pentecost

O Lord, make us have perpetual love and reverence for your holy Name, for you never fail to help and govern those whom you have set upon the sure foundation of your lovingkindness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

For the texts of the readings for The Third Sunday after Pentecost, [please click here.](#)

[Click here](#) for the latest from the Episcopal News Service.

And for current news from the Episcopal Diocese of Rhode Island, [please click here.](#)

