

St Stephen's News

ST STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH · TIMONIUM, MARYLAND

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FROM THE RECTOR

This seems a very strange way of protesting brutality

It's no great secret that modern liturgies generally leave me cold. It's not just that the language is usually the undistinguished product of a committee, but they are often deficient doctrinally and theologically.

Not so long ago, for example, I listened to an elderly nun read one of those modern general confessions. In it she admitted, on behalf of all present, to a lengthy list of politically incorrect behavior, including polluting the environment and oppressing native Americans.

While I cannot pretend to see into the lady's heart, I am sure that she, personally, had never so much as tossed a candy wrapper out an automobile window, much less oppressed anyone. Quite the contrary in fact: Her religious order runs missions that serve indigenous people both here and elsewhere in the Americas.

What's more, I seriously doubt that anyone else in the sanctuary, while sinners all, were guilty of the offenses against political chic that she had confessed – not even my politically incorrect self.

The nun, I suspect, persuaded herself that her profession of collective guilt was an act of humility. May be so, but it was very far from harmless.

Phony confessions of this sort utterly undermine entire purpose of confession. It is, indeed, a sin to confess to sins one has not committed.

Far from a personal admission of sin, such phony confessions are actually intended to point an accusing finger at others who disagree politically with the views adopted by today's highly politicized mainline churches.

"Confessions" like this are more accurately described as "virtue signaling." They are intended to demonstrate that the participants are on the right side of political and social history.

They are particularly dangerous from a spiritual perspective because they distract the people making them from the sins they actually need to confess.

Furthermore, they engender in the participants a sinful sense of pride in undeserved personal virtue.

All this was brought to mind by news that a number of local churches are throwing their support behind "Black Lives Matter." Not only are they organizing demonstrations in support of BLM's goals, but they are also supporting the organization financially.

My objection is that the aims and ideology of Black Lives Matter are utterly incompatible with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. BLM is, in fact, a Marxist organization and its ultimate aim is no less than the overthrow of the constitution of the United States of America.

Not only that, a fundamental precept of Marxism is its implacable opposition to Christianity, evidenced by its advocacy of the use of brute force against those who oppose it. BLM, for example, openly advocates violence against the police, evidenced by its slogan: "Pigs in a blanket; Fry 'em like bacon."

Mention of another of its antisocial, not to say unChristian, goals was recently quietly removed from its website – namely the destruction of "the nuclear family."

Even the name of the organization is deliberately deceiving: Clearly only a few black lives actually matter to it: Those that can be exploited for propaganda purposes, namely people who have died at the hands of the police.

The many thousands who are daily shot to death and otherwise murdered by the ruthless thugs that infest our inner cities are ignored by BLM. Their plight does not advance its political objective – the dismantling of the nation's law enforcement institutions.

How on earth, one is compelled to ask, could Christian churches support an enterprise that manifestly stands against everything our Lord Jesus Christ has taught us?

The members of Black Lives Matter clearly do not love their neighbors as much as their love themselves; much less do they love their enemies. Indeed, they have remained tellingly silent about the 3,000 police officers injured during their violent demonstrations. Nor have they

Parish Prayer List

Our Prayer Chain offers prayer daily for people on the Prayer List and guests of the Joseph Richey Hospice. To add a name to the prayer list, or visiting list, or to join the Prayer Chain, call the parish office (410) 560 6776.

FOR RECOVERY: Mavis, Pam, Eileen, Rebecca, Catherine, Bill, Richard, Janis, Daniel, Leona, Rachel, Elizabeth, Kim, Dorothy, Donna, Skip, Dan, Sarah, Betsy, Edie, Heidi, Alan, Terry, Helen, Linda, John, Neal, Stephen, Nathan, Hobie, Betty, Helen, Jan, Bobby, Lee, Cary, Marie, Jim, Joanna, Kendall, Ian, Gloria, June, John Tom, Michell, Jack, Lewey, Stephen, Pamela, David, Wade, Sifa, Eileen, Ravi, Theresa, Larry Ricard, Judy & Scott

FOR LIGHT, STRENGTH & GUIDANCE: Sam, Cameron, Jim, Diana, Caroline, Karen, Ardis, Mavis, Michael, Ian, Melba, Vinnie, Doug, Chip, Elizabeth, Lisa, Carey, Jacob, Casey, Beth, Kath, Rebecca, Colin & Christian.

IN MEMORIAM:

THOSE WHO MOURN:

ON ACTIVE SERVICE: Lt. Col. Charles Bursi, Lt Nicholas Clouse, USN; Lt Col. Harry Hughes; USAF; Cpt Fiodor Strikovski, US Army.

offered a word of sympathy for the loved ones of the cops who have been killed.

No genuine Christian could possibly contest the assertion that "black lives matter." Indeed, Jesus teaches us that all lives, without exception, matter. Each and every one of us on God's green earth is equally beloved in the eyes of our creator. Yet to point tout this to BLM's supporters invites harassment and even physical assault.

The rationale behind BLM's rejection of the proposition that all lives matter is its espousal and propagation of "Critical Race Theory" – a racial ideology that postulates that white people in general, and white men in particular, are irredeemably evil and responsible for all the ills that afflict the world.

This is not simply banal, unscientific nonsense. It is a particularly evil form of racism closely akin to the anti-Semitic racial theories that led to the murder of six million Jews in Nazi gas chambers during World War II.

It is right and proper for churches to stand against brutality in all its manifestations, including police brutality. But supporting an organization like Black Lives Matter that promotes its agenda by brute force seems a very odd way of doing so. GPH

FROM THE PARISH CLERGY

New County rules on Covid19

Dr. Gregory Wm. Branch, Health Officer for Baltimore County, has promulgated the following order: “Beginning Thursday, July 23 at 9 a.m., Baltimore County individuals ages 2 and up are required to wear face coverings in any indoor business, service, organization or establishment that serves the general public. This includes, but is not limited to, retail establishments, recreational establishments, houses of worship and other locations open to the public.

Residents are strongly encouraged to wear masks in outdoor public areas where social distancing of at least six-feet is not possible. Exemptions to the decree are:

- Individuals who cannot wear a face covering (as defined in Governor's Executive Order No. 20-04-15-01) due to a medical condition, mental health condition, or disability;
- Individuals who are communicating or seeking to communicate with someone where the ability to see the mouth is essential for communication;
- Individuals at food service establishments while eating or drinking, which shall all be subject to the same existing regulations and exceptions previously in place under the Governor’s Executive Orders and the Health Officer Orders

of the Maryland Department of Health In addition, all non-seated parties, must wear a face covering when moving in or about a restaurant or bar premises.

- Individuals are not required to show documentation that an exception applies.”

The full text of th Health Department Directive and Order and the Interpretive Guidance can be found at the County web site.

Our Sunday service schedule

Holy Eucharist at will be said at 8.00 AM and 9.15 AM. Morning Prayer will be said 11.00 AM with Holy Communion on the first Sunday of the ,month. Sunday School takes place at 9.15 AM

For shut-ins and folks st in quarantine we will be continuing our videos of Feast Day and Sunday Eucharists. These are posted on the **parish website (www.ststeve.com)**, **Youtube** and **Isaac the Eagle’s Facebook** page.

You’ll find them from 9.00 AM onwards every Sunday and Day of Obligation at **ststeve.com** at the bottom of the Home Page, under “Recent Blog Posts. A new midweek “broadcast” talk by the rector can also be found on the website every Wednesday or Thursday.

Meanwhile, we have opened a Post Office Box for the exclusive use of the treasurer. Please mail your offerings to: **St Stephen’s Anglican Church, P.O. Box 6161, Timonium, MD 21094**. All other mail should be sent to our street address. GPH✘ & JPN✘

St Stephen’s Anglican Church

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Office: 410 560 6776 · Rector: 443 425-2420
Vicar: 717-398-6603 · Pastoral Care: 410 252 8674

www.ststeve.com

The Very Rev. Guy P Hawtin, Dean & Rector
The Rev. John Novicki, Vicar ·
Associate Rectors:

The Rev. Michael Belt, The Rev. C. Daniel Bursi,
The Rev. Dr. Norman Flowers,
The Rev. M. Wiley Hawks & The Rev. Mark Newsome,
Mrs Happy Riley, Director of Pastoral Care
& Wedding Coordinator

SUNDAY SERVICES

8am: Said Eucharist
9.15am: Sung Eucharist (with Nursery & Church School)
11 am: Sung Mattins (1st Sunday: Sung Eucharist)
Choral Services (as announced) – evensong.ststeve.com

WEEKDAY SERVICES

Wednesday, 6pm: Evening Prayer
Friday, 12 noon: Healing Eucharist
Saturday, 5pm: Family Eucharist

For Our Country.

ALMIGHTY God, who hast given us this good land for our heritage; We humbly beseech thee that we may always prove ourselves a people mindful of thy favour and glad to do thy will. Bless our land with honourable industry, sound learning, and pure manners. Save us from violence, discord, and confusion; from pride and arrogancy, and from every evil way. Defend our liberties, and fashion into one united people the multitudes brought hither out of many kindreds and tongues. Endue with the spirit of wisdom those to whom in thy Name we entrust the authority of government, that there may be justice and peace at home, and that, through obedience to thy law, we may show forth thy praise among the nations of the earth.

In the time of prosperity, fill our hearts with thankfulness, and in the day of trouble, suffer not our trust in thee to fail; all which we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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