



What do we say in this moment?

ON WATCH

During a global pandemic and recession with 14.7% unemployment in the U.S., another white police officer killed an unarmed black man. This does not mean all police officers are racist or bad. It is symptomatic of the racism that has plagued the U.S. since Europeans landed on these shores. Following the First Amendment “right of the people peaceably to assemble” and “freedom of speech,” people have been protesting. Where is the hope? There’s hope in several places. Keep reading. I will provide examples.

People are speaking out against racism and violence. However, this time, something is different in these protests. According to a *New York Times* [article](#), police have been killing more than 1,000 Americans every year since the statistics began. Maybe it was the video of the officer kneeling on George Floyd’s neck, or maybe it was his words. Regardless of what makes it different, the protests are spreading. Some are peaceful. Some are not. Some turn a peaceful assembly into a riot. Some include opportunists who take advantage of the disarray and begin looting. Violence and looting violate God’s Commandment, “You shall not steal.”

One protester in Jacksonville [said](#), “In every city, there’s a George Floyd.” Others are speaking out because George Floyd could have been their father, brother, uncle, cousin, or friend. Another protester came out because he had been a victim of police violence as a teenager. A protester in Minneapolis [said](#), “If we don’t fight for change we’re not going to get it.” After being hit with rubber bullets from the Washington Police, a woman in Georgetown [said](#), “Do you know what didn’t happen to me? No one kneeled on my neck.”

SERVICE OF HOLY WORSHIP

June 7, 2020
11:00 AM

Sermon:
“Cosmic God”
Dr. Matthew Tennant

Scripture:
Psalm 8

Anthem:
"The Majesty and
Glory" (Fettke)

CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, June 3
10:00 PBJ Bible Study (*Zoom*)
7:00 Sanctuary Choir (*Zoom*)

SUNDAY, June 7
8:30 Church Council Meeting (*Zoom*)
9:45 Online Bible Study
11:00 Morning Worship (*radio and livestream*)
7:00 Youth Real Life (*Zoom*)

Other events and activities are

Current events justify people's righteous indignation and moral outrage. We can respond with our support. We can speak for those who cannot speak. We can support people's right to peacefully express their dissent. We can join them in solidarity, or if we cannot protest alongside them, we can find creative ways to demonstrate that we share their frustration.

There has been too much violence for too long. By not talking about racism or ignoring it, we share some complicity with those who actively pursue racist agendas. Racism seems to always find its way into our country's biggest divisions. An Englishman named Anthony Reddie [said](#) on BBC yesterday, "America is still a country that's underpinned by white supremacy [sic]."

I know Anthony and feel like his summary is wrong, and I told him that. I [tweeted](#) my disagreement to him and told him that the U.S. is not 'underpinned by white supremacy.' Many of us don't support racist rhetoric. Many of us are working to overcome differences. 'Underpinned' suggests racism is our foundation. America's foundation includes the freedom to express our grievances and the right to peacefully protest. Our Constitution begins, "We the people..." Therefore, all of us have voices and the right to say what is on our mind.

We can say COVID-19 stinks. We can commiserate with everyone stuck inside. We can sympathize or empathize with those who have lost their jobs. We can reach out to everyone we know and ask how they are doing. When they talk, we can listen. We can encourage people who want to peacefully protest. We can discourage anyone who tells us they want to riot or loot. We can read articles and books that help us see things from a different perspective. We can share those articles and books with others.

We can follow the positive examples we see all around us. In Flint, MI, a [sheriff took off his riot gear](#) and marched with protesters. In Queens, NY, [police officers knelt](#) with protesters. In Louisville, KY, [a group of white women stood](#), arm-in-arm, between police and African American protesters. Also, in Louisville, [protesters formed a human barrier](#) to protect a police officer who became separated from the rest of the officers. In Brooklyn, NY, [protesters protected](#) a Target store from looters. There is hope.

We don't know all of the answers, so sometimes, we can say nothing. We can just listen. We can pray. We can hope, especially when we see courageous people responding. We can trust that God is bigger than this moment and will still be present when we get through this. And, we will get through

being canceled or modified to be online-only when possible. Please contact your group leader or the Church Office with any questions

Prayer Concerns

Pray for our world, as we all face the reality of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Pray for those infected with the virus, for people who are taking care of them, and for all who are especially at risk.

Pray for our church family, that we may draw closer, even as we keep a physical distance from one another.

Worship Leadership

Would you like to help lead in worship? Each week we are looking for people to read a Scripture lesson or lead in other ways. Typically, this means taking a short video of yourself--the camera on your phone is perfect for this. Talk to Alba if you're interested!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

Join us in wishing some of our church family a Happy Birthday this week!

June 7th: Jim Hallissy, Michael Mundell

May God bless you all with abundant joy on your birthday and always.

Having a birthday and do not

this. Today might seem like a dark moment in the U.S., but it's not the end.

On Good Friday, the disciples thought the Jesus movement was over. It wasn't. Sunday was coming. Right now, there's a Sunday ahead. It's a bright day when people will come together. In fact, they will come together in person because the coronavirus will not last forever. On that bright day in the future, we can remember the first Easter and Jesus' glorious resurrection.

Peace,
Matt

see your name here? Please help us update our records. Contact Lexi to provide your updated information at (434)-293-5706

Get Ready for Bible Study

This Sunday morning at 9:45, our Bible Study will focus on 1 Peter 3:13-22, a passage that turns our attention to suffering, particularly unjust suffering. As you prepare for our session, we invite you to read through 1 Peter—the entire book if you can take the time, and especially today's passage. Reflect on times in your life when you have suffered for doing what is right, in small ways or large ways. How did that experience feel? How does our experience of unjust suffering relate to the life of Christ? Finally, as a follow-up to last week's session, please think about ways we might take action (as a church or as individuals) in response to the profound unrest in our nation and world right now. Connecting to this week's passage: we have heard so many people passionately crying out about experiences of unjust suffering—how are we to respond?



Update on Sam Mackey's house:

A number of UBC members have been working diligently to renovate Sam's house. Sam is living at Our Lady of Peace in their nursing center. Before his bout with Covid-19, he was aware and pleased that the UBC Deacons would take on this task enlisting help from lots of UBC members. There is much that needs doing. The whole inside of the house will be cleaned and painted, carpet removed, bathrooms updated,

lots of landscaping etc. The major renovation is gutting the kitchen and removing a wall between the kitchen and dining room.

Saturday, May 23rd, a number of UBC folks came out to help (socially distanced of course). Matt, Dean and Eddy provided the demolition. John Buchanan started taking down trees with Brad and Herman helping, and Gary and Karen Dalton worked on a water damaged wall while Ed Lowry painted. It was a good day of work, comfortably distanced, but together. Others have worked with just one or two in the house at different times. There is still lots to do. If anyone is interested, please contact Debra Bryant at debra.l.bryant@gmail.com.



Let's Share!

During this season of social distancing, we'd love to use this newsletter to help us stay connected as individuals. Would you be willing to help? Each week we'd like to share a mini-interview with a church member, so that we can hear updates from one another. We need your help! Simply write a short answer to the three questions below, and email them to Lexi in the church office, or call the office at 434-293-5106. Her email address is woodson@universitybaptist.org

- 1) What has been the biggest surprise to you about the COVID-19 pandemic?
- 2) What has been the biggest inconvenience?
- 3) What has been an unexpected blessing?

We hope to hear from you soon!



Interview Response: Pheobe Brown

1) What has been the biggest surprise to you about the COVID-19 pandemic?

The mixed messaging around health and safety.

2) What has been the biggest inconvenience?

Not having any outside support with my kids.

3) What has been an unexpected blessing?

Exploring new places with my kids. We have taken the bike and ridden much further than we would have normally. The girls are loving time in various rivers and streams.

Update: Vacation Bible School

We are sad to announce that Vacation Bible School will not take place this year. We were hoping to be able to make something work, but there doesn't seem to be a safe and responsible way to have VBS at church this year. In lieu of meeting in person, Erin will be sending out a virtual VBS Bingo with summer activities for kids and families.

Painting Completed!

The painting of the exterior trim of the church building has been completed. Our thanks to the crew of Spectrum Painting for a job well done.



Fire @ UBC

At around 7:00 PM on Wednesday, May 27, the smoke alarm sounded at the church, the system worked as it is designed. Mechums River Security called the [Charlottesville Fire Department](#) and [Barbara Moore](#). The fire department arrived quickly and found a pew in the sanctuary was on fire. They put out the fire, ensured it would not reignite, and determined it was caused by an accident.





On a positive note, UniBap Park had its inaugural use when the fire fighters needed a place to sit down and take a break.

Homemade Masks Continue to Impact our Community

Volunteers in our church continue making dozens of masks every week. In addition to numerous masks given to family members, neighbors, and church members, recent deliveries of masks include: 35 masks to the Charlottesville-Albemarle Rescue Squad, 40 masks to Charlottesville Homebased Care for local Veterans, and 50 masks to City of Promise, which serves the 10th and Page neighborhood just down the street from UBC. This remarkable ministry continues to bless our community. Thank you to all of our volunteers!



fabric mask to you.

Need a Mask??

Volunteers in our church have been hard at work sewing beautiful fabric masks. Do you need one? This expression of love from our talented church members is one way that we can take care of one another. If you do not have a mask yet or if you need another, please contact the church office or one of the ministers so that we can get a

Like to Sew?

We extend our deep gratitude to the volunteers in our church who have already made dozens of fabric masks for others who need them. If you would like to share your skills and join in this effort, call Will Brown or email him at wbrown@universitybaptist.org

Sunday Mornings Online

Even though we are not gathering in person, we are still joining together each Sunday morning for worship and Bible study. We hope you will join us!

Bible Study

At 9:45 am, we begin an interactive Bible Study that is broadcast via [YouTube](#). We invite you to join in the conversation by adding comments during the session. To download the handout ahead of time, visit universitybaptist.org/live

Worship

Our Sunday morning worship service will begin, as usual, at 11:00 am. We encourage everyone in the congregation to join us from home. As always, you can listen by radio on WINA (1070 AM and 98.9 FM), or you can join us online for our live broadcast. To view the live video broadcast, visit our [Facebook page](#) or click [this link](#) to watch on YouTube.

DID YOU KNOW?

Online and Automatic Giving

Online giving simplifies contributing by allowing for a specific dollar amount to be sent to University Baptist Church on a specific date, thus decreasing the number of checks you have to write. You can set this up to happen automatically from your bank account, or make a single contribution on our website or Facebook page. For more information, visit universitybaptist.org/give or call our church office.

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Connect with us

