

Compass Bearing #32  
Devotions to Navigate the Coronavirus Pandemic  
**"Doing Justice"**  
Thursday, June 4, 2020  
by Pastor Mark Ellcessor

The events that have taken place in our society over the past several days surrounding the death of George Floyd are very disturbing. As followers of Jesus, we stand against racism, brutality, and violence. Our United Methodist baptismal vows include this question:

*Do you accept the freedom and power God gives you  
to resist evil, injustice, and oppression  
in whatever forms they present themselves?*

This is in alignment with what the prophet Micah spoke to the corrupt culture around him:

*He has shown you, O mortal, what is good.  
And what does the Lord require of you?  
To act justly and to love mercy  
and to walk humbly with your God. (Micah 6:8)*

Micah was prophesying at a time when secular authorities, religious leaders, and the general population had mostly turned away from God and turned on each other. During his years as a prophet, Micah spoke out as these kings reigned:

- King Jotham – who rebuilt portions of God’s temple, but passively allowed idol worship to continue
- King Ahaz – who nailed shut the doors of God’s temple, then sacrificed his own son to pagan gods
- King Hezekiah – the one bright spot... who devoutly followed God, restored temple worship, and destroyed idol worship
- King Manasseh – who murdered many of his own people, sacrificed his own son to pagan gods, and encouraged pagan shrines, idol worship and sorcery

To all of this, Micah asked, “what does the Lord require of you?” Require. That’s not a soft word like encourage or hope or wish. We should ask it too. What does the Lord require of you? Micah answers his own question: act with justice, love with mercy, and walk with humility. These are not an option for followers of God.

While we create categories that magnify our differences, the Bible reminds us that we are all created in God’s image.

<sup>26</sup> *So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith,* <sup>27</sup> *for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.* <sup>28</sup> *There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus (Galatians 3:26-28).*

*Here there is no Gentile or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all (Colossians 3:11).*

Those categories of another time and place have been replaced with those of ours. It is simply unacceptable to treat others poorly based on surface differences. We must do better as a world. We must do better as a nation. We must do better as followers of Jesus. It is not an option.