

A Time For..... Seeking the Beloved Community

Our goal is to create a beloved community, and this will require a qualitative change in our souls as well as a quantitative change in our lives.

~ Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. 1966

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:



a time to be born, and a time to die;
 a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;
 a time to kill, and a time to heal;

a time to break down, and a time to build up;
 a time to weep, and a time to laugh;



a time to mourn, and a time to dance;
 a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;
 a time to tear, and a time to sew;

..... I know that whatever God does endures forever; nothing can be added to it, nor anything taken from it; God has done this, so that all should stand in awe before him. That which is, already has been, that which is to be, already is; and God seeks out what has gone by.....

~ Selections from Ecclesiastes 3

The Synod of the Trinity enters:

A Time For..... seeking Martin Luther King's Beloved Community

The words of Ecclesiastes 3 are incredibly timely for us! The vision of Martin Luther King Jr. continues to inspire us. In this challenging year, we find ourselves moving daily between change and loss, silence and speech, hiding from and exploring a world we could not imagine just six months ago....

COVID19

George Floyd

Zoom

Masks

Breonna Taylor

Protests

Police Response

Trayvon Martin

Social Distancing

Flames

Together-Apart



We long for new hearts for ourselves and real change for people long oppressed. The long-standing pain, anger and brokenness pour out from the cracks in our communities – and our hearts are overwhelmed. The ground shifts around us as realities old and new are displayed – and our spirits long for real improvement in our world.



Where do we go? How do we go? Christians have long sought to live into the Kingdom of God modeled and promised by Jesus Christ. In that spirit, Martin Luther King's vision of *the Beloved Community* is a wondrous image of life lived with a wholeness and integrity that speaks to the common good. It is a global vision in which all people can share in the wealth of the earth, the strengths of diversity, and an abundance that comes from gifts lived out together in peace and grace.

Where do we go? How do we go? Beginning Sunday, Sept. 27th, we invite you to be a part of presentations and conversations that move us towards action as we look at the *times and seasons* around us – right now – in light of the *Beloved Community*.

We'll start on Sunday, Sept. 27, at 7:00 pm. (EDT)

We'll explore the meaning of Beloved Community, identify some values that characterize Beloved Community, and begin to make connections with specific challenges in our world right now. Please join us!

Our topics include: (not in order)

The Character of Beloved Community

Racism

White Privilege

Hyper Partisanship

The Pandemic

Technology

But the end is reconciliation; the end is redemption; the end is the creation of the beloved community. It is this type of spirit and this type of love that can transform opposers into friends. It is this type of understanding goodwill that will transform the deep gloom of the old age into the exuberant gladness of the new age. It is this love which will bring about miracles in the hearts of [sic] men. from "Facing the Challenge of a New Age," Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. 1956

Registration

The Character of Beloved Community

by Dr. James Calvin Davis

Sunday, Sept. 27, 7 p.m. (EDT)

Zoom Video Conferencing Platform

Register here: bit.ly/SynTrinBelovedCommunity

Dr. James Calvin Davis is a minister member of Albany Presbytery and the George Adams Ellis Professor of Liberal Arts and Religion at Middlebury College (VT) where he has taught for 20 years. A theological ethicist in the Reformed tradition, Davis writes and teaches broadly on the moral values necessary for healthy democracy, as well as the ways that the church can help cultivate those virtues, for its own good and the improvement of civic life in the U.S. He is the author of four books, including *In Defense of Civility: How Religion Can Unite America On Seven Moral Issues That Divide Us* (WJK, 2010) and *Forbearance: A Theological Ethic for a Disagreeable Church* (Eerdmans, 2017). His fifth book, *Why God Loves Football: Theological Reflections on the Holy Days of American Culture*, will be released by Cascade next year.

James' book *Forbearance* will be available from Sept. 26-28 at a \$2 discount (\$18) through Hearts & Minds Bookstore's website (heartsandmindsbooks.com). Use promo code SYNODTRINITY when ordering to get the discount.

Registration for the remaining webinars in this series will be available as topics and speakers are finalized.

