

Unholy Trinity 2017—Reflection
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What then, shall we say? How about, this, let us say we will stop playing church and get real about what the church is to be about—because we have real, gospel work to do. What then, shall we say? How about this, let us confess our own brokenness as a church and acknowledge that we too often love the institution more than we love God's people. We have real, gospel work to do.

What then, shall we say, my sisters and brothers? How about we admit that we are afraid to do the work we know must be done. Let us confess that we allow our fear of being uncomfortable to be more important than the systemic racism, poverty and violence that is killing... all of us. Let us confess that talking about giving up privilege and giving away power is much harder than we thought it would be. Let us find our courage.

What then, shall we say? Truly, what shall we say to the Deamonte Lee's of this world? What shall we say to the kids in the old factory town along the river who overdosed on opioids but survived it—this time? What shall we say to the woman who comes to communion each Sunday with a pistol in her handbag because she says it helps her feel safe? It is time to change the narrative. It is past time. But here we are.

How about right here, right now, we recommit to this work and that we vow to not grow weary in listening, not grow weary in learning from those who would otherwise be invisible to us. How about right here, right now, we commit to deciding that the real work of the church, the gospel work of the church is to spend itself for the life of the world—that others may live without fear of hunger, without fear of violence, without fear of deportation, without fear of exile from education, without fear of not having a childhood. Without fear of the church!

Let us not grow weary in dismantling the systems of oppression and culture of violence that seems—seems to flow in our veins. Humanity has built the systems, we can take it down. We Can Take it Down. We must take it down. We who are made a new body and a new people in Jesus Christ, we can alter the dna structure of hate in this body and allow God to transform us so that love flows in our veins. But God help us, we have to want it.

We have to want it and believe it is possible as much as we believe that we are standing here today. We have to want it like oxygen. When the rulers, and powers, and principalities keep us segregated from one another, keep us competing for power over and against one another, then make no mistake—the devil is winning. It is time to shame the devil and start really living like Jesus. We have gospel work to do and let us pray that the first transformation will be in each of us. Let us tell the truth, listen to those on the margins, partner with them, let us not be afraid to give up power and privilege to help God usher in a new reality for all of God's people.

What then shall we say? How about this: We will not give up.

Let us get to work and let Jesus transform us and rebuild this body so that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, depth, or anything else in all creation will be able to separate us or keep us from loving one another—in Christ Jesus.