



Council of Bishops

The United Methodist Church



“Becoming Sacred Space”

Dismantling Racism: Council of Bishops Lenten Devotional Series

Bishop Hee-Soo Jung, Wisconsin Conference

March 3, 2021

Scripture: John 2:13-22

The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. He told those who were selling the doves, “Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father’s house a marketplace!” His disciples remembered that it was written, “Zeal for your house will consume me.” The Jews then said to him, “What sign can you show us for doing this?” Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.” The Jews then said, “This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?” But he was speaking of the temple of his body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

Key points:

- God intends for us to be a sacred space—sanctuary—for one another.
- Paul affirms in 1 Corinthians 3:16, that Jesus teaches us to be a sacred space.
- Our prejudices—conscious and unconscious—can do great harm if they are unrecognized and unaddressed.
- In God’s kin-dom, there’s no room for racism, gender-ism, homophobia, and xenophobia.
- God places us on level ground, where all are seen, all are heard, all are valued, and all are loved.
- The money changers ascribe value—God does not—that is a human trait. We are all valued in God’s eyes.
- By the power of God’s Holy Spirit, we discern, pray for, and do the will of God. We are peacemakers, reconcilers, and bridge-builders. We are guided by love, compassion, mercy and justice.

Three questions:

1. In what one way would you most like to experience inner change?
2. How do you prepare yourself for the sacred place to Abba Father?
3. What human cry in your surrounding community disturbs you the most right now?

