



# Council of Bishops

The United Methodist Church



## “No Partiality”

Dismantling Racism: Council of Bishops Lenten Devotional Series

Bishop Tracy S. Malone, Ohio East Episcopal Area

March 29, 2021

### Scripture: Acts 10:34-43

Then Peter began to speak: “I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right. You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, announcing the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all. You know what has happened throughout the province of Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached— how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him.

“We are witnesses of everything he did in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They killed him by hanging him on a cross, but God raised him from the dead on the third day and caused him to be seen. He was not seen by all the people, but by witnesses whom God had already chosen—by us who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

### Key points:

- As humans, we often reject what is uncomfortable and unfamiliar as well as what we cannot understand or control. God, however, brings people and experiences into our lives that challenge our fixed perceptions, beliefs, and preferences so that we can see things from God’s perspective.
- God does not show partiality. Even in our resistance to embracing all of God’s children regardless of race, ethnicity, gender or age, God does not give up on us and continues to work on our hearts.
- We are called to live an authentic faith:
  - that recognizes God’s divine image in all persons,
  - that is congruent with God’s message of love, hope, justice and reconciliation,
  - that has the courage to call into questions systems and practices that perpetuate fear and hatred,
  - that denounces white supremacy and works to dismantle racism,
  - that is not afraid to ask the hard questions, to uncover and expose injustice,
  - that does the right, just and loving thing even if there is no personal benefit in it

