

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2018

SERMON NOTES

“Now What?”

Matthew 5:1-12

Amos 5:21-24

What now?

Thirsty?

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.”

Matthew 5:6

- **Righteousness:**

- **Justice:**

*This is the mission entrusted to the church,
a hard mission:
To uproot sin from history,
To uproot sins from the political order,
To uproot sins from the economy,
To uproot sins where ever they are.
What a hard task.
Oscar Romero*

***“But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!”
Amos 5:24***

*"Your assemblies are a stench to me."
Amos 5:21*

*Human progress is neither automatic nor inevitable... Every step toward
the goal of justice requires sacrifice, suffering, and struggle; the tireless
exertions and passionate concern of dedicated individuals.
Martin Luther King, Jr.*

What now?

*"We can throw our pebble in the pond and be confident that its
ever-widening circle will reach around the world."
Dorothy Day*

Additional Notes:

Questions for Further Reflection and Conversation...

- What now?
- How do you understand righteousness?
- Do you, honestly, hunger and thirst for righteousness?
- Reflect on “Your assemblies are a stench to me,” as it relates to our call to work for justice. Why would God say that?
- Reflect on all of the quotes. Do you agree or disagree?
- In the wake of recent tragedies, what if God is challenging First Church to do more than we ever have for the brokenness in our world? What if this is our moment? What now?
- What was the most challenging thing you heard in today’s sermon?

Suggested Reading...

- Diana Butler Bass’ Grounded: Finding God in the World
- Ian Cron and Suzanne Stabile’s The Road Back to You: An Enneagram Journey to Self-Discovery
- Mike Mchargue’s Finding God in the Waves
- Bianca Jaurez Olthoff’s Play With Fire: Discovering Fierce Faith, Unquenchable Passion, and a Life-Giving God
- Ann Voskamp’s One Thousand Gifts