

**Joyful in Hope – 98– August 1, 2020**  
**(thoughts and ideas to encourage and challenge)**

*“Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.”*  
*Romans 12:12*

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*I suspect that everyone is aware by now of the passing of civil rights icon, John Lewis, and probably many of you have read the essay he wrote just before his death, which was published on the day of his funeral. I was quite moved when I read it and decided to include it in today's, Joyful in Hope. Regardless of your political bent, this is a call to all of us to be better, to do the right thing, to stand up for what we believe in, to demonstrate the excellence of love and peace and nonviolence in our lives. I hope you'll take the time to read it.*

**Together, You Can Redeem The Soul Of Our Nation – by John Lewis**

While my time here has now come to an end, I want you to know that in the last days and hours of my life you inspired me. You filled me with hope about the next chapter of the great American story when you used your power to make a difference in our society. Millions of people motivated simply by human compassion laid down the burdens of division. Around the country and the world, you set aside race, class, age, language and nationality to demand respect for human dignity.

That is why I had to visit Black Lives Matter Plaza in Washington, though I was admitted to the hospital the following day. I just had to see and feel it for myself that, after many years of silent witness, the truth is still marching on.

Emmett Till was my George Floyd. He was my Rayshard Brooks, Sandra Bland and Breonna Taylor. He was 14 when he was killed, and I was only 15 years old at the time. I will never ever forget the moment when it became so clear that he could easily have been me. In those days, fear constrained us like an imaginary prison, and troubling thoughts of potential brutality committed for no understandable reason were the bars.

Though I was surrounded by two loving parents, plenty of brothers, sisters and cousins, their love could not protect me from the unholy oppression waiting just outside that family circle. Unchecked, unrestrained violence and government-sanctioned terror had the power to turn a simple stroll to the store for some Skittles or an innocent morning jog down a lonesome country road into a nightmare. If we are to survive as one unified nation, we must discover what so readily takes root in our hearts that could rob Mother Emanuel Church in South Carolina of her brightest and best, shoot unwitting concertgoers in Las Vegas and choke to death the hopes and dreams of a gifted violinist like Elijah McClain.

Like so many young people today, I was searching for a way out, or some might say a way in, and then I heard the voice of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on an old radio. He was talking about the philosophy and discipline of nonviolence. He said we are all complicit when we tolerate injustice. He said it is not enough to say it will get better by and by. He said each of us has a moral obligation to stand up, speak up and speak out. When you see something that is not right, you must say something. You must do something. Democracy is not a state. It is an act, and each generation must do its part to help build what we called the Beloved Community, a nation and world society at peace with itself.

Ordinary people with extraordinary vision can redeem the soul of America by getting in what I call good trouble, necessary trouble. Voting and participating in the democratic process are key. The vote is the most powerful nonviolent change agent you have in a democratic society. You must use it because it is not guaranteed. You can lose it.

You must also study and learn the lessons of history because humanity has been involved in this soul-wrenching, existential struggle for a very long time. People on every continent have stood in your shoes, through decades and centuries before you. The truth does not change, and that is why the answers worked out long ago can help you find solutions to the challenges of our time. Continue to build union between movements stretching across the globe because we must put away our willingness to profit from the exploitation of others.

***Though I may not be here with you, I urge you to answer the highest calling of your heart and stand up for what you truly believe. In my life I have done all I can to demonstrate that the way of peace, the way of love and nonviolence is the more excellent way. Now it is your turn to let freedom ring.***

When historians pick up their pens to write the story of the 21st century, let them say that it was your generation who laid down the heavy burdens of hate at last and that peace finally triumphed over violence, aggression and war. So, I say to you, walk with the wind, brothers and sisters, and let the spirit of peace and the power of everlasting love be your guide.  
Here is tomorrow's Order of Worship. Have a blessed day together.

### **Order of Worship, August 2, 2020**

Call to Worship – Isaiah 40:28-31 - Ward Bartlett

To God Be The Glory vv. 1,2 (4) – Duane Kimmel

Communion – Justin Remsing

Peace, Perfect Peace (479)

Prayer - Tom Achard

Scripture - Matthew 18:1-5, 19:13-15, 20:20-28  
Diane Storm

Jesus Loves The Little Children

Children's Chatter – Ward Bartlett

Sermon – Mel Storm

Servant Song (694)

Challenge – Micah 6:8

Benediction – 2 Corinthians 13:14

### **To God Be The Glory**

To God be the glory, great things he has done  
So, loved he the world that he gave us his son  
Who yielded his life, an atonement for sin  
And opened the life gate that all may go in  
Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!  
Let the earth hear his voice  
Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord  
Let the people rejoice  
O come to the Father through Jesus the Son  
And give him the glory, great things he hath done

O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood  
To ev'ry believer the promise of God  
The vilest offenders who truly obey  
That moment may enter the heavenly way  
Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!  
Let the earth hear his voice  
Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord  
Let the people rejoice  
O come to the Father through Jesus the Son

And give him the glory, great things he hath done

### **Peace, Perfect Peace**

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Peace, perfect peace, in this dark world of sin?  
The blood of Jesus whispers peace within.

Peace, perfect peace, by thronging duties pressed?  
To do the will of Jesus, this is rest.

Peace, perfect peace, with sorrows surging round?  
On Jesus' bosom naught but calm is found.

Peace, perfect peace, with loved ones far away?  
In Jesus' keeping we are safe, and they.

Peace, perfect peace, our future all unknown?  
Jesus we know, and He is on the throne.

It is enough: earth's struggles soon shall cease,  
And Jesus call us to Heaven's perfect peace.

### **Jesus Loves The Little Children**

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Jesus loves the little children  
All the children of the world  
Red, brown, yellow, black and white  
They are precious in His sight  
Jesus loves the little children of the world

Jesus died for all the children  
All the children of the world  
Red, brown, yellow, black and white  
They are precious in His sight  
Jesus died for all the children of the world.

Jesus rose for all the children  
All the children of the world  
Red, brown, yellow, black and white  
They are precious in His sight  
Jesus rose for all the children of the world.

Jesus rose for all the children  
All the children of the world  
Red, brown, yellow, black and white  
They are precious in His sight  
Jesus rose for all the children of the world.

### **Servant Song**

Lord, make me a servant  
Lord, make me like You  
For You are a servant  
Make me one, too  
Lord, make me a servant  
Do what You must do  
To make me a servant  
Make me like You

(Repeat)

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**Micah 6:8 – Challenge**

He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

**2 Corinthians 13:14 – Benediction**

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

AMEN

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