

OUR BELOVED
COMMUNITY



CHRIST CHURCH

March 24, 2021

THE ANTI-RACISM LEGACY OF DESMOND TUTU

In a world of conflicts and division, the Beloved Community Team notes a recent article on the anti-racism legacy of Archbishop Desmond Tutu (who died 12/26/2021), who saw our God-given interdependence, and our need for one another, as integral to reconciliation and restoration.

One path forward in unity is a re-oriented understanding of our relationship with and need for each other, a rethinking of who we are, of us and the sense of other.

The Article, "Tutu's Legacy: Habits of Restoration and Resurrection", from The Living Church, January 23, 2022, by The Rev. Canon Dr. Michael Battle, discusses how, among other things, racism involves faulty reliance on false categories, false identities.

Instead:

"In order to think beyond racial conflict, our primary identity must be seen through the lens of Ubuntu, an African concept that Tutu made famous. Ubuntu teaches that we can be human only in fellowship, in community, in koinonia, in peace. You are a person through other persons. You don't know you are beautiful unless there is another person to help you see and understand that there is such a thing as beauty. You don't know your jokes are not funny unless another person is there not to laugh. All of us are inextricably linked together. Furthermore, the only way to be a person through other persons is to be a person through God[.] ... That is why we pray to practice the presence of being true persons in relation to God, ourselves, and each other."

The Lenten Book Group is also studying *The Book of Joy: Lasting Happiness in a Changing World* (2016), a series of late-in-life dialogues between Archbishop Tutu and His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama on the nature of happiness and suffering. Their conversations are interspersed with reflections on and connections to neuroscience and similar disciplines.

The Beloved Community Team