

the Venues

Go Deep

Welcome Spring

This is the Day

3.21.2021

What is your favorite thing about spring?

March 21 recognizes two events: The first day of Spring and International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (marking the March 21, 1960 killing of 69 at a peaceful anti-Apartheid protest in South Africa).

What allegorical meaning do you see between the two events?

In his speech of August 11, 1967, Dr. King said, “*And the truth means saying to our nation that the roots of racism are very deep in America and they’re still here...freedom has grown only a bud, and not yet a flower.*”

What evidence do you see today of the “roots of racism”?

Read [Isaiah 35:1-4](#)

The images of this passage are all about reversals.

What things need to be reversed today (Personally and culturally)?

Isaiah speaks “a word out of place” a “word of hope” - in that his words reflect a time and situation yet to come.

How do you maintain a spirit of hope in an environment of despair?

Pay close attention to [Isaiah 35:4](#). Compare The Message version to this [one](#).

What differences do you see and feel in the two versions?

One version portrays a restorative justice and the other portrays a retributive justice.

Which version is the correct one?

How do you make that determination?

What is your “hermeneutical” lens?

Contemplate on this line from the song “Garden” which we heard this morning:

“Heaven is where we make it

Even in the smallest places, can a garden grow.”

Now, what will you do this week, today, to create a garden?