

# A Note From the Revs

June 18, 2020

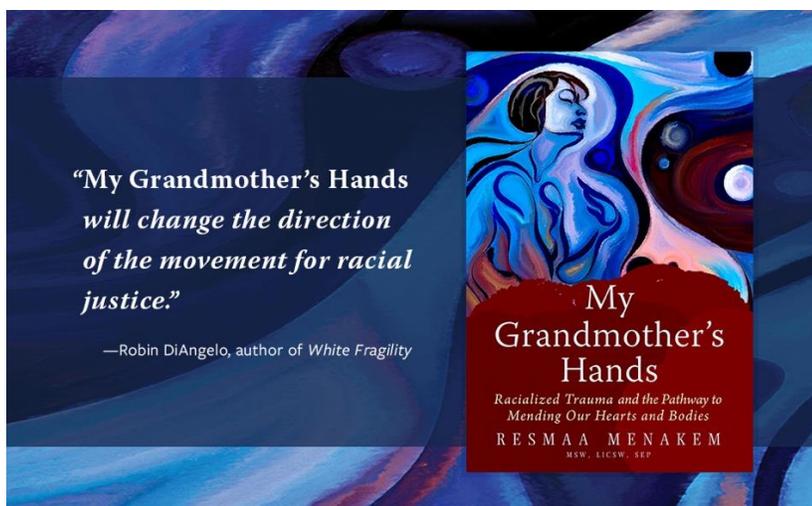


## The Church's Work Now is Active Anti-Racism

For the past few Sundays, our Virtch services and our sermons in particular have addressed the matter of systemic racism in society and in the church. As two white women with the privilege of a pulpit and a platform, we have tried to speak into this issue honestly and authentically. We do not have all the answers. We do not know the way forward – not fully, anyway. But we do sense that the time has come for us all to take a stand. It's time to be engaged in the active work of anti-racism instead of simply trying to be non-racist. And fortunately, we can all learn this way of being and of justice seeking together, teaching one another along the way. And we trust that it is God's Spirit who encourages us and goes this way with us!

In this past Sunday's sermon, I (Caroline) made reference to the work of Resmaa Menakem. He is a black author, therapist and somatic healer. He wrote a book called *My Grandmother's Hands: Racialized Trauma and the Pathway to Mending our Hearts and Bodies*. I have yet to read the book, but have added to my Summer reading list. I appreciate the approach he seems to take: to be reaching for greater understanding, greater compassion, greater intentionality, and greater healing for all affected by racism and racialized trauma. He also offers a free, online e-course designed to help people to "recognize body trauma born out of racism and ... start to heal". The website address is: <https://www.resmaa.com/courses>

*Graphic courtesy of amazon.com*



You might also want to watch the recent worship service offered by the Black Clergy Network of the UCC. It was livestreamed on Sunday night and offered powerful witness and word of hope. On YouTube at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wFiumMG3PE8&feature=youtu.be>

We recognize that the work of anti-racism is one that we as adults must address, but also one that we need to be raising within our families, and speaking honestly and intentionally about with our children. This is no easy task. There are ways, however, that we can begin to open dialogues that are age-appropriate and full of compassion. It is an interesting experience for parents to have a close look at the images their children are consuming – in toys, books, on-line. Do your children experience a variety of cultures, colours, and experiences through their objects of play and learning? Could you look at including more diversity within your playroom?

Another meaningful way to engage the topic of racial justice with your children is through the books you read together. I (Molly) have some books in my library if you are interested in borrowing them to share at story time. Grandparents and aunties can purchase meaningful books to add to their little ones' libraries. If you are looking for places to find titles, here are a few options:

<https://www.todayparent.com/family/books/kids-books-that-talk-about-racism/?fbclid=IwAR3zc6R5nbjkrF9Q2TSEGzNn6sI7kcrTTI28YvyGNJAveDnG0IhVETN8UPM#gallery/books-that-talk-about-racism/slide-27>

[https://www.chapters.indigo.ca/en-ca/books/antiracist-reading-list/kids?s\\_campaign=google-search-books-antiracist&gclid=EAlaIqobChMI\\_5iyzoSJ6gIVkozICh2bfAxpEAAAYASAAEgKONPD\\_BwE&gclid=aw.ds](https://www.chapters.indigo.ca/en-ca/books/antiracist-reading-list/kids?s_campaign=google-search-books-antiracist&gclid=EAlaIqobChMI_5iyzoSJ6gIVkozICh2bfAxpEAAAYASAAEgKONPD_BwE&gclid=aw.ds)

<https://www.readbrihtly.com/how-to-talk-to-kids-about-race-books-and-resources-that-can-help/>

Here is just one of the many web resources that offer a variety of options for ways to explore race with children:

[https://www.prettygooddesign.org/blog/Blog%20Post%20Title%20One-5new4?fbclid=IwAR0cgs-Bo5bXcunHOwOGV-2\\_wI70Y4c2EqWXmbbro97sW19aKe-ujXDWD08](https://www.prettygooddesign.org/blog/Blog%20Post%20Title%20One-5new4?fbclid=IwAR0cgs-Bo5bXcunHOwOGV-2_wI70Y4c2EqWXmbbro97sW19aKe-ujXDWD08)

Most importantly, in the work that you are doing – the reading, the discussions, the challenging of assumptions, the openness – you are role-modeling for your children what it means to be living out your faith and your commitment to racial justice in real, tangible ways. If you would like to talk more about ways to engage your families in this work, I (Molly) do not profess to be an expert but would be happy to chat with you about this very important topic.

Friends, in this time when it is more important than ever that we exercise compassion, understanding, patience, and care for one another, we want you to know we SEE you, we are WITH you, and we commit ourselves and our faith community to continuing to walk in LOVE and JUSTICE. Thank you for being brave and vulnerable enough to follow in the way of Jesus. We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

Yours in service....in person and on screen,

Molly & Caroline