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But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream. ~Amos 5:25

When Something Terrible Happens

When something terrible happens, it's natural to want to do something.

Faced with the horror of Kamloops, we wept, held vigils, rang bells, and reached out to our Indigenous neighbors. Dealing with an act of racial hatred in a city less than an hour away, we wept and marched in solidarity.

These are wonderful gestures, akin to expressing condolences to someone who has experienced a personal loss. It's the right thing to do, bringing solace both to the bereaved and to the community.

But they're not enough.

Why? Because the attitudes and biases that created these horrendous events are still with us. *In us.* No matter how caring and progressive we are.

That's the *truth* part of "truth and reconciliation." We must learn our history and then own it. Look hard at ourselves, as individuals and as a community. Accept the impact of white privilege. Listen and learn. Get uncomfortable.

And then we must act.

What can we do? I wish I knew! Certainly, we must refuse to accept inequities based on race, religion, Indigeneity, ability, sexual orientation, or socio-economic status. Become allies. Make our communities safe and welcoming. Have difficult conversations with people who cling to white privilege. Call out bias and discrimination whenever it occurs. Hold our governments and institutions to account. Demand that the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission be enacted. Call for stronger laws on hate speech. Work for justice in everything we do, all the time.

We are so privileged to live as and where we do. Feeling sad for a few days is not enough.

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*"Our relationship with God and each other strengthens us and helps make the world a better place.
We welcome and include **everyone** into congregational life."*

