

**For a Kairos Moment Like This**  
**Sunday, June 26, 2022, 11:30 a.m., All Saints Church, Pasadena**  
**The Rev. Alfredo Feregrino**

Like many of you today, I just cannot believe what happened on Friday. Early in the morning, I started receiving texts and email notifications about the anticipated Supreme Court ruling. As per last Thursday, we estimated to have this decision anytime within the next two weeks, so you can just imagine my state of shock and disbelief , and I have to confess that the first thing that I thought when I got the news was that I would need to completely rewrite my sermon.

A priest friend of mine told me the same thing...I guess many of us who were assigned to preach on this Sunday had to do the same...rewrite our sermons...and let me tell you, it is not an easy task. And this happens to us much more often than expected during these uncertain times, when we have to face moments of fast and unexpected changes in our communities, countries and the world.

Yes, to my disbelief and amazement the Supreme Court overturned Roe vs. Wade, eliminating the constitutional right to an abortion after almost 50 years.

As you know, the court's decision eliminates federal protections for abortion and leaves the regulation to the states. About half of states in our country are expected to allow bans or other limits on the procedure to take effect.

The impact will be particularly severe for those living in poverty, with low incomes and those who lack consistent access to health care services.

Our Presiding Bishop Michael Curry in his statement about the Supreme Court ruling said that this decision institutionalizes inequality... because women with access to resources will be able to exercise their moral judgment in ways that women without the same resources will not.

And I would also say, that this includes all people who can get pregnant.

And for many of us, after this constitutional protection has vanished, it seems to me that we are going back to the past, way back in time, almost transporting us to the middle ages, right?

In my task to rewrite my sermon, I have also been listening statements and interviews from the “prolife community”

And many rejoiced in this Supreme Court decision saying that it was about protecting life and babies.

If this were really true, as someone said in social media, we would have an excellent and free universal maternal care, you would not be charged a penny to give birth, and if this decision were about babies, we would have months and months of parental leave for everyone, free post-natal services, free diapers, and free formula. (I know this as a fact....diapers are expensive ... I had twins and let me tell you, I know what I am talking about)

If this decision were really about babies, we would have free childcare for newborns and universal preschool. And support for the parents.

We really need to do something...

We really need to change the way we do things , we have more than 400K children in the Foster Care System , more than 100K are waiting for adoption... just in California we have 60K children in the Foster Care System according to the Children Law Center of California.

But I guess, this decision is not about protecting lives, nor what happens to you after you are born.

Yes, it feels like we are going back in time, way back in time. Right?

But what is worse at this time, is to witness the erosion of our constitutional rights. Our constitutional rights are under threat. Yes, a greater collapse of rights is possible.

The NY Times pointed out that in his opinion, and I quote: Justice Thomas argued that the court should also reconsider and overturn cases guaranteeing the rights to same-sex marriage, same-sex consensual relations and contraception, saying that the foundational legal theory on which they are based lacks constitutional grounding.

Of course the government cannot deprive us of the right to breathe or eat simply because the phrase is not in the Constitution.” Right ? And that is because these things are so fundamental. This is the nature of the challenge that we face.

Yes, this is a crucial day for our nation and our communities.

And I know that many of you may feel a turbulence of emotions right now... you may feel pain, fear or you may be in shock. With good reason, you may be upset. With good reason, you may be angry.

So, what should we do? How should we respond?

We can feel like the disciples, as if we want to command fire to come down from heaven and consume the Supreme Court judges who voted for women to lose the right to their own bodies.

This would be a simple solution, right?

In the gospel that we heard today, this anger, this rage, was the emotion that made James and John react when they were not received in Samaria. And, they asked Jesus if they could command fire down from heaven to consume the Samaritans.

And talking about precedents for this, there was already a precedent in the Old Testament. In the First Book of Kings, fire from heaven destroyed the messengers of the king of Samaria.

But Jesus rebukes James and John, and tells them NO... Jesus told them, I came to save not to destroy.

Jesus rejects retaliation and violence. On his way to Jerusalem, all the way to the cross, he was proclaiming the Way of Love.

After this Supreme Court decision, you may feel a turbulence of emotions right now and you may be harboring a number of toxic thoughts in your mind.

But you know, negative emotions and thoughts take you out of your peaceful center and make it harder to hear the inner voice of your soul ... the quiet voice of the divine.

Elijah the prophet heard this silent voice, the “soft murmuring sound” after witnessing high winds, earthquakes, and fire at Mount Horeb, when he wrapped his face in his mantle.

He gave the mantle that contained the divine breath, the silence voice, the Ruah of YHWH to his successor Elisha after ascending to heaven.

That silence voice, that “soft murmuring sound” is there within ourselves. We just need to pay attention and be attentive. The voice of God is always within us but we can only hear it if we are in our peaceful center.

Yes, God is at work all the time despite all appearances to the contrary ... and this is the Good News.

So, again

What should we do? How should we respond?

In tumultuous times like this, we turn to God, to find peace and stability.

And yes... We lament ...

*How long, O Lord? How long???*

And it is ok to cry...

And share with one another what is on our hearts, even as they may be broken. There is power when we share our stories, because our stories are sacred.

Parker Palmer suggests that rather than breaking apart, our hearts might be broken open, to allow for a greater capacity for love and compassion... and in this way transform ourselves and others.

This is a Kairos moment... and it is Kairos moment because we are in a time when conditions are right to accomplishment a crucial action.

**And then we Act.**

We pray with our actions grounded in God.

Putting our trust in God as the psalmist did:

*The lord is my light and my help; whom should I fear?*

And you know what, trusting in God becomes a prayer when we act.

Instead of acting out of anger, we act out of love and maintain our peaceful center.

You know, motivated by love... our activities for justice become a prayer.

The Episcopal Church maintains that access to health care, including reproductive health care and reproductive procedures, is “an integral part of a woman’s struggle to assert her dignity and worth as a human being”

And as our presiding bishop said, we as a church, stand with those who will feel the effects of this decision.

Unfortunately, we have a long way to go...and here we go again... but we have to be attentive in order to hear the inner voice of our soul ... the quiet voice of the divine because this is our ultimate guidance.

When love guides our intentions, we find God in all we do and say, and we allow God to direct our actions.

When we surrender to God to work in our hearts everything changes and our pursuit of justice becomes our prayer.

**AMEN!!!**