

## *Day 42 Devotion*

*He has shown you, O man, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.*

Micah 6:8 (NIV)

On the one-year memorial of Ahmaud Arbery's death on 23 February 2021, a diverse group of people from all walks of life gathered in Satilla Shores to commemorate this slain Black man's life. The event was sponsored by the Arbery Family and the 2:23 Foundation – a nonprofit in Brunswick created to combat social injustices so that young Black and Brown bodies can grow up in a world of equity and equality. We gathered to symbolically finish the run that Ahmaud Arbery anticipated completing before being followed, corralled like an animal, and shot dead by a white father-son vigilante team while another white neighbor filmed the horrendous event with his cell phone.

There is something so unnatural about the reason we were gathering as the backdrop was this enchanted place of exceeding grace and natural beauty where God's creative handiwork assures humanity that there is enough for us all. There are the marshes of Glynn, the mystical epiphytes or Spanish moss which live so symbiotically on the live oak trees. There is something for humans to learn about this kind of relationship. On occasion a wild heron was seen pecking for food. And just to the east is the Atlantic Ocean and the most beautiful horizon weighed down by the setting sun but pulled by the waiting moon. No wonder this place is called the "Golden Isles."

As we walked, I noticed several "Dead End" signs. My mind meandered to the video plastered on television and social media which captured Ahmaud's murder. As we continued walking, it suddenly occurred to me that he had run these very streets and that he had no way out. I had a vision of a fawn running through the woods and unknowingly heading into a hunter's net. And behind my mask I cried quietly. I cried for Ahmaud. I cried for the depravity of humanity. I cried for his mother and father –that their innocent baby had been caught in a net of racial violence and hatred in part because of the color of his skin.

**WE ARE ALL HUMAN.** Racism is an assassination of the character of the Creator. It is a lie about our neighbors—about people who do not look the same as others. It places some people in superior positions and others in inferior positions. And therein is the problem with our America – the double standards based on race. Its roots are systemic and for far too long it has been a cankerworm penetrating and degrading the rights of humans to live freely and justly, and to pursue happiness.

What kinds of action will it take to end racism? Let's think about this, and then act on it as we consider just why did Ahmaud Arbery die. Let's determine that we will see and value every human as God sees her/him/them. Ahmaud Arbery was a "child of the Universe" no less than the trees and the stars; [he] had a right to be here. Our collective environmental goals on healing the

planet cannot and will not be solved until there is a collective determination, intention, and harmony to include all of Creation.

Hermina Glass-Hill, Midway First

*Loving Creator, Holy is your Name, your Presence, your Power, your Work, your Love in all of Creation. O God, in your plan, You have ransomed us from sin with the blood of your beloved Son, that Innocent Lamb. Guide us as we search our hearts for worthiness of your sacrificial offering. Whisper to our innermost knowing and thoughts the Way and the Truth. Shine the Light of Yeshua's divine love through the cracks in our being and reveal all of our brokenness.*

*If it is a hardened heart fastened to tradition, break the chains and transform us for your glory. If it is segregation of humanity which is created in your image, sojourn with us on the path of unity. If it is degradation of your beautiful, natural world (humans, wildlife, oceans, air, and land), renew in us the gift of life, the joy of living, and the blessing of serving in your kingdom. May Thy love, peace, grace, and hope be fulfilled in our daily living. In the name of the Prince of everlastingness, Amen.*

*Ashé.*

*Salaam.*

*Shalom.*