

Another day, another week and what have we done? For many this week has brought some relief with 'bubbles' and picnics and the promise of some sport to watch, albeit from a distance. Yet, this week has seen the unrest of oppression on our television screens and amidst the pain of Lockdown we find the pain of centuries of inequality exploding. It is a very complicated issue, particularly if you are white, we have only known the world from the perspective we find as white people, and often, through no fault of our own we find ourselves racially accused of the sins of our forebearers. History, when truthful, reveals bad decisions, unfair treatment and an injustice which, as Christians, we are called challenge and remedy, even when we are emotionally confused.

I believe in the oneness of creation, I believe that God in a part of all creation, in everything and everyone, and everything and everyone is a part of God. In this way God experiences everything, the good, the bad and the ugly. Jesus called us to love our neighbour as ourselves, in for me this means to love as if we were one for that is the reality of creation. There are no barriers other than those we erect for ourselves, as individuals, communities, societies and countries. History reveals the barriers that have been erected, sometimes with no thought or understanding, sometimes very definitely for the wrong reasons, and we allow it to happen even now. Politics thrives on division. The power-hungry want division. My prayer, is for a world of justice and equal opportunity, but for it to be an honest prayer I have to wrestle with what that means for me, what do I have to change in myself and in my life to allow that prayer to be answered, what do I have to challenge to create that world for which I pray? Perhaps the most complicated aspect of all this is recognising the difference between honouring and remembering; around the country statues remember the acts of people who lived their lives and made a difference, we need to recognise where that difference was unjust, or bought at cost which did not demonstrate love, the statues can then act as a remembrance for all of us that sometimes bad decisions are made, decisions which are selfish rather than selfless. Just as we remember the cost of war on Remembrance Sunday rather than honouring war, so we remember the lessons we have learnt from history rather than honouring the individual, and maybe statues have a place in that.

To go back to the beginning, what have you done this week? I have enjoyed watching Museums in Quarantine on BBC iPlayer, the first explored the exhibition at Tate Modern looking at Andy Warhol from a completely different perspective, the exhibition never happened as it closed almost as soon as it opened, so this is the only way to view it. I have also watched Grayson Perry's Art Club in which he and his wife are exploring Lockdown through art and inviting celebrities and the public to take part by creating their own response, some have been selected for an exhibition post Lockdown. It was on Channel 4 and you can find it on catch-up. I know that some of you are putting brush to paper and it got me thinking about art in isolation and what might be the images of this period of Lockdown. I have played around with some ideas, what image would you create. I imagine there may well be many exhibitions of Art in Isolation when we finally reach the new normal where we are able to congregate and share together again, perhaps we could have our own exhibition of this strange time and experience?

