

Dear Trinity Members and Friends,

This week, as we continue our summer series on Racial Justice from a biblical perspective, we will be talking about Environmental Racism. Each week we are featuring a person "whose voice we should be hearing," in the conversation. Our featured person this week is Robert Bullard, who is known as the Father of Environmental Justice. He got involved in this movement before it even had a name, way back in the late 1970s, in Houston. Ever since, he has devoted his time and energy to research on the way minority, and especially black communities, are disproportionately affected by environmentally hazardous practices.

"All communities are not created equal," Bullard recently told NCR's EarthBeat. "There are some that are more equal than others. And if a community happens to be poor, working class or a community of color, it generally receives more than its fair share of things that other people don't want. That's the injustice involved...And it's more than just environmentally. It also involves health and wealth. When these many facilities [like landfills, power plants, refineries] are placed near homeowners, they lower the property value, which means lowering wealth. They also create pollution, which is also impacting health. So it's a double whammy that we're fighting."

You can read that entire interview or read the transcript here:

<https://www.ncronline.org/news/earthbeat/racism-pollution-and-policing-conversation-robert-bullard-father-environmental>

Another recent interview with Al Gore on You Tube is available here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ndo3-RTpb68>

A recent PBS interview and transcript are available here: PBS Amanpour and Company: Robert Bullard: How Environmental Racism Shapes the US. Season 2020 Episode 03

https://video.search.yahoo.com/yhs/search?fr=yhs-symantec-ext_onb&hsimp=yhs-ext_onb&hspart=symantec&p=Robert+Bullard#id=5&vid=7cd94d98b4e9c24468d0168ca22a5357&action=click

Sunday's sermon makes the connection between access to resources and power. The particular resource highlighted in the sermon is water, a precious commodity in the arid land of the Middle Eastern wilderness. These interviews and other articles by Robert Bullard help us understand how this dynamic works today, making sure communities with power have access to unpolluted land and water, while communities with less power are not similarly protected.

Thank you for continuing this conversation with me. I look forward to talking with those of you who join me on Sunday at 4:00 for the coffee hour.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Judith