

Dear Trinity Members and Friends,

This week, July 5, 2020 the sermon will highlight spatial racism, which is defined as development in which the affluent create racially and economically segregated suburbs or gentrified areas of cities, leaving the economically poor - mainly Blacks, Hispanics and some newly arrived immigrants -- isolated in deteriorating areas of the cities and older suburbs.

The devastating impact of massive economic disparities between communities and of isolating people geographically according to race, religion, and class is well documented. Spatial racism creates a visible chasm between those who are rich and those who are poor, as well as between white people and people of color.

In my research and reflection for this sermon, I learned so much U.S. history that I did not know.

Some of it, I will share with you in the sermon and some of it I will not be able to share given the time constraints.

Our featured voice for this week is Mehrsa Baradaran, who is a law professor specializing in banking law at the University of California, Irvine. She has written two books and numerous articles in which she outlines some of this history and talks about the long-term impacts of racial segregation and housing/banking discrimination in the U.S.

I was fascinated to learn about the Freedman's Savings Bank, which I do not cover in my sermon, but which you can learn more about in this article:

[The Untold History of Black Banking in America](#), Interview with Mehrsa Baradaran in Make Change.

I quote from other articles and books by Baradaran, but am providing links so you can read the interviews and articles in full if you want more information.

Articles and Interviews:

[No Justice, No Peace](#), article in The American Prospect, by Mehrsa Baradaran, June 17, 2020.

[“We’ve Never Had a Purely Capitalist Economy—We’ve Had State-Subsidies for Some and Exclusion for Others”](#), interview with Mehrsa Baradaran in ProMarket, June 10, 2020.

Books:

[The Color of Money: Black Banks and the Racial Wealth Gap](#). September 14, 2017.

[How the Other Half Banks: Exclusion, Exploitation, and the Threat to Democracy](#). Oct 6, 2015.

Thanks for continuing this conversation with me. Join the Sunday coffee hour at 4:00 if you want to discuss the sermon or your thoughts about spatial racism.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Judith