



Newsletter Oct 17, 2020

Dear Friends of Emmanuel,

As I begin writing this letter (Monday, Oct. 12), I have begun to listen to the Supreme Court confirmation hearings for Judge Amy Coney Barrett. I couldn't help thinking how good it is that our gospel this week challenges us to think about the important issue of how we live our faith while being good citizens. If we perceive a conflict between our faith and our government, what do we do?

In Matt. 22:15-22 we read that Jesus is being enticed into a debate about his loyalty to the Roman authorities when he is asked, "Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?" Jesus' clever response is to ask them to show a coin that has the image of the emperor and follows that saying give to the emperor what is the emperor's and to God what is God's. It is a classic phrase often used during pledge season as encouragement to give to the church!

Seriously, however, in our country right now this question is of great importance. We talk of separation of church and state. The writers of the constitution were clear: Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof.

The intention of this law was to allow each of us to carry our faith without fear of repression. This great freedom gives us the opportunity to worship the way we chose. At the same time, God also calls us to live our lives following the teachings of Jesus.

What if – following Jesus brings us into conflict with a government's action or law? It is an eternal question for all of us. There isn't one answer. There are many situations throughout history that have challenged Christians over the centuries. Abolition of slavery, prohibition, civil rights, women's suffrage, marriage equality is but to name a few. How and what do we do when living out our faith brings us into conflict with the laws of the

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**Live Zoom Service this week
at 5:00 pm Saturday,
October 10, 2020.**

Zoom Service Link:

Join Zoom Meeting Join
Zoom Meeting
<https://zoom.us/j/91483483716?pwd=cXZXVnE5SXZF5mNQYzR5cWZzMTNkQT09>

Meeting ID: 914 8348 3716
Passcode: 490881

Virtual Coffee Hour follows
our live Zoom Service. (It is
not recorded.)

**After 7:00 pm on Saturday,
view the TAPED service
anytime via our YouTube site:**
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQm5KH2wGB_XbZ8h9jldhA

Have a comment? Email us
at: info@emmanuelwr.org

UPDATE ON FOOD PANTRY DRIVE



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land. It is an important question in this contentious time.

You are invited to Join us, faithfully, respectfully, honestly and with humility on October 17, at 5:00 or online thereafter.

God bless you,

The Rev. Joyce Caggiano

Priest in Residence, Emmanuel Church West Roxbury

FOOD PANTRY (continued...)

As you know, we have a fundraising goal to support Rose's Bounty, the food pantry at our neighbor church, Stratford Street United, 77 Stratford Street. The money would be used by the pantry to buy nonperishable food and other items for distribution to those in need in our community.

Rose's Bounty is open twice a month on location and also delivers groceries to homebound veterans, seniors, and other homebound adults each month.

We have already received a few donations. Thank you! Please help us reach our matching goal of \$500 by writing a check to Emmanuel Church, indicating that it is for the food pantry. Any amount, no matter what denomination is appreciated. Mail your check to the church at 21 Stratford Street, West Roxbury, MA 02132. Or just leave it in the church mailbox.



Thank You, LORD!