

## 2021 10 10 Prayer for Peace, Hope and Justice

This week we have joined with thousands all over the world in celebrating Archbishop Desmond Tutu's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday. Wherever the Arch appears, the word 'Ubuntu' is not far behind - this beautiful word, we are told, is a gift from Africa to the world - reminding us that 'we are persons only through other persons,' - that when we live for ourselves only, our humanity dies within us.

Anyone who followed the months and months of revelations at the Zondo Commission on State Capture will wonder what has become of this Ubuntu – watching those hearings has been like wading through a cesspool of greed and grabbing and barefaced lying and obscene self-enrichment. The liars and thieves who appeared before Judge Zondo, want us to believe that Ubuntu and all it stands for is dead ...

That thinking of others is dead;

That it is every person for himself or herself;

That, instead of being stewards of the commonwealth, public office, corporate leadership and government jobs are simply an invitation to eat and grow fat;

That if as a result, common people go hungry or without houses or medical services or clean water, and children starve and die ... it's too bad. It's my time to eat and grow fat.

We watched the Judge wait in vain for one word – just one word – of shame, or contrition, or even just a little embarrassment. There was none. The most troubling thing about the killers of Ubuntu is that they have no shame.

So, let us be ashamed for them, and not only them, for ourselves:

Let us pray ...

Let us confess that our land has become infected with corruption, which is another word for the smell of death. From a corrupt ex-president all the way down to the clerk expecting a banknote in our licence application ...

Let us confess also that there could be no corruption without those willing to corrupt, to go along, to pay the bribe, to get home quicker.

Let us pray for a rising tide of revulsion at what we South Africans have become, for a rediscovery of shame, a renewal of conscience and a resurrected spirit of Ubuntu, so that we may all once more become truly human, and our beautiful land may be cleansed.

God bless Africa and all the world, Guard her children,  
Guide her leaders and give her peace. AMEN.