

Daring Discipleship

June 21, 2026

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Green

Matthew 10:24-39

What comes to mind when you hear the phrase “daring discipleship”? Do images of protesting, community organizing or letter writing campaigns to elected officials emerge?

While these qualify as daring acts of discipleship for the times we are living in, I feel I need to speak of a truth that doesn't get received warmly today. That is, not everyone is called to such acts of discipleship. And that's okay.

It's time for the children of God to stop judging other children of God for what they do and don't do. Remember what Paul said, the body has many parts. We all have different roles to play in the building of God's kingdom.

When Jesus asked his followers to take up the cross, what he was inviting us to do was to surrender completely our wants and wills, our desires and delights, our love of self and need for personal satisfaction, and replace it instead with a selfless love. This love is risky, costly and demanding for it will lead us to places we never thought we would go and introduce us to people we never thought we would ever associate with.

This path will look differently for each one of us. That friend who went quiet on social media is not condoning any wrongs. They are choosing to make this world better by retreating in prayer. How often do we forget in moments of crisis to first calmly give it over to the Lord?

How about that friend who refuses to attend a march? They have decided that for them showing the love of Christ means spending time in a home for disabled adults.

My friends, the cross that we are asked to pick up is the same, but we all have different ways of grabbing hold of it, and we all carry it at different paces and to different places.

In his reflection, “Risky Obedience,” Walter Brueggemann reminds us that when we follow Jesus into a “world of fear and threat and anger,” that sometimes we go as “willing followers” and other times as “reluctant followers, slow to get under way.”

But either way, we are all called to be “practitioners of Jesus' goodness, generosity and hospitality.”

May today we find ourselves being revived once again to be the daring disciples the world needs — and may we respect the many ways that discipleship is lived out.

God of justice and peace, we know this world is broken and needs our love. Help us to become those daring disciples who follow Jesus on a path of forgiveness and inclusion. As we do, keep us from judging others. May our eyes be fixed on You alone. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

(Rev. Donna Frischknecht Jackson is a communications specialist for the United Church of Christ and author of today's *Sunday Bulletin*.)