

Here it is—Wednesday, June third—and I have not touched my pen to paper to compose an essay for Monday—already past. It seems impossible, given the events in our country at this time, to write of gardens, birds, daily happenings in the countryside, sheep grazing, lambs playing. And, as far as talking about the murder of George Floyd in Minnesota, others have said, much better than I ever could, what needs to be said. Journalists, former presidents, bishops, civil rights leaders, late night TV hosts, columnists, and some of our political figures have written and said all that Americans need to know—that we, as a nation, have failed to uphold our stated beliefs in equality, peace, democracy, and justice.

Then, on the other side, from the highest office in the country and from the President's supporters, we have heard the worst of all that could be said. A message of belligerence, autocratic government, dominance of the civilian population, and hatred and self interest—this is what has been put forth by an egotistical person incapable of either governance or human compassion.

So, what more needs to be said? It is, instead, what needs to be done. And that is up to all of us. Isolated here in the middle of the country in a very rural area, we are not able to join a peaceful protest against the brutal murder in Minneapolis or against the racism and divisions that allow such crimes to take place. But, what we can do is to go to the polls and vote—we can make our voices heard in the most important way by casting out these bigots and autocrats and their enablers. This does not just mean throwing Donald Trump out of the office of President of the United States. It means uniting to turn out his supporters in the United States Senate. Only by ridding the country of this sham of a Senate and replacing it with people who will vote and promote what is right, not what benefits their pocketbooks or their hopes for re-election, can we ever hope to regain any credibility as an ethical and just nation.

And, in the meantime, we can “take a knee” in support of those who have been at the mercy of the racist actions taken so often by people with civic responsibility, and in support of those able to attend protests, and in support of those who have been tear-gassed while peacefully expressing their shame at the policies of our country.