



THE BROWARD DEANERY OF THE DIOCESE OF SOUTHEAST FLORIDA

Celebrant Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

People I will, with God's help.

June 13, 2020

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

Our Baptismal promise to respect the dignity of every human being is one that we take very seriously as members of the Episcopal Church. These are words we readily assent to proclaim, but do we truly live into our promise? What does dignity entail? How do we bring about justice and peace when we cannot readily agree on what justice is or looks like? As we watch protests around our country—and around the world—these questions take on renewed immediacy.

The pain that we see all around us right now is not new. That pain has been with black and brown people for countless generations. From the moment European settlers came to the Americas, systemic racism has been built into our country. Native Americans were oppressed, displaced, and murdered. Human beings were kidnapped in Africa and brought in slavery to this place 400 years ago. Racism was knitted into the DNA of the United States of America before it even officially existed.

Sadly churches, including and especially the Episcopal Church, for hundreds of years used scripture to justify the dehumanization of anyone who was not white. Our Baptismal promise is not rooted only in the need to transform the world around us, but to also transform our church and ourselves. As a church, we have worked to address racism through education, relationship, and advocating for those who suffer the deep and daily pain of a world that denies the *imago Dei* in them because of their skin color. Clearly such work is not finished; the dehumanization of those who are not white continues.

The murder of George Floyd is not the first murder of a black person by a brutal police officer, nor will it be the last we fear. However, as we watch continued protests, Mr. Floyd's death may finally be the catalyst to confront this sinful reality and begin the long overdue work to bring about racial justice and reconciliation.

As Episcopal priests and deacons in the deanery of Broward County, we commit ourselves to this transforming work. We will

- ✝ Establish in our deanery and our parishes fulsome and ongoing education, listening sessions, serious and respectful discussion, and prayer opportunities about racial injustice and ways of reconciliation
- ✝ Engage in lament, confession, contrition, and repentance for the church's role in establishing and maintaining racial injustice
- ✝ Guide our youth to recognize threads of systemic and institutional racism such that they too join us in fulfilling our Baptismal vows
- ✝ Urge diocesan-wide intensive anti-racism training for clergy and lay leaders in all aspects of our common life
- ✝ Actively engage with our local, statewide, and national leaders to advocate for legal and governmental reform of housing, education, healthcare, policing, and other societal structures that disadvantage people of color
- ✝ Respond prophetically to "numerous inexcusable deaths and intimidation of people of color at the hands of law enforcement personnel in communities all over the United States" as called for in General Convention resolution 2018-A299, "Acknowledge Police Violence and Confront Racism"*
- ✝ Advocate for reforms of policing at all levels and for the reallocation of financial resources to hire social workers, mental health care workers, and other professionals
- ✝ Publicly and non-violently witness to the call of Jesus to love our neighbors as ourselves

This endeavor will not be swift; hundreds of years of injustice cannot be healed overnight. Rather than be overwhelmed by this ministry, we step forward in faith that God's justice and love are with us. We will, with God's help!

We pray to our triune God, in the words of Harry Emerson Fosdick:

*Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the facing of this hour.*

Your servants in Christ,

The Clergy of the Broward Deanery of the Diocese of Southeast Florida

ALL SAINTS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Fort Lauderdale

The Rev. Leslie J. Hague

CHURCH OF THE ATONEMENT

Lauderdale Lakes

HOLY SACRAMENT EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Pembroke Pines

The Rev. Jacqueline G. Rowe

SAINT AMBROSE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Fort Lauderdale

The Rev. Gerard Klingenberg

SAINT ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Hollywood

SAINT ANNE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Hallandale Beach

The Rev. Canon Dr. Ronald N. Fox

SAINT BENEDICT'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Plantation

The Rev. Albert Cutié

The Rev. Debra McLaughlin

SAINT CHRISTOPHER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Fort Lauderdale

SAINT JAMES-IN-THE-HILLS EPISCOPAL
CHURCH

Hollywood

The Rev. Guy Hewitt

SAINT JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Hollywood

The Rev. Fred Hoyer Johnson, Jr.

SAINT MARK THE EVANGELIST EPISCOPAL
CHURCH

Fort Lauderdale

The Rev. Johan Johnson, Ph.D.

SAINT MARTIN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Pompano Beach

The Very Rev. Bernard Pecaro

SAINT MARY MAGDALENE EPISCOPAL
CHURCH

Coral Springs

The Rev. Richard Maxwell

The Rev. Natalie Blasco Cintrón

The Rev. Lorna F. Goodison

SAINT MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Deerfield Beach

The Rev. Lynne E. Jones

SAINT NICHOLAS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Pompano Beach

The Rev. Mark Andrew Jones, BSG

SAINT PHILIP'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Pompano Beach

RESIDENT CLERGY

The Venerable Tom Bruttell

The Rev. Matthew Faulstich (Ret.)

The Venerable Bryan Hobbs (Ret.)

*This resolution may be read at <https://tinyurl.com/y9trbgaq>

We commend to you this prophetic sermon by the Rev. Guy Hewitt preached at St. James, Hollywood and published in the Episcopal Journal.

"No Justice, No Peace"

<https://episcopaljournal.org/no-justice-no-peace-a-christian-sociological-reflection-on-race-in-the-usa/>

If you have not already read the reflection by the Rt. Rev. Jennifer Baskerville-Burrows linked Bishop Eaton's recent special daily reflection, we commend that to you as well.

"A Reflection of Personal Experience, Hope and Challenge for the Church on Dismantling White Supremacy and Racism"

https://www.episcopalcafe.com/lets-get-to-work-bishop-jennifer-baskerville-burrows/?fbclid=IwAR3sgB5Mb55fvC7S0PYgTCpR9Gt7V4nyMv-kV_rLo5IR-jq9Y_YuPAQXS2Q