



St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

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Madison, WI 53726
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Established 1914

The Rev. Andy Jones
Rector

The Rev. Melesa Skoglund
Associate Rector

June 3, 2020

The Rev. Joseph Baring, Senior Pastor
St. Paul AME Church
4525 Diamond Dr
Madison, WI 53714

Pastor Baring:

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, your sisters and brothers in Christ, mourn and lament with you and the people of St. Paul AME the senseless killing of George Floyd by white police officers. We grieve knowing that this horrific incident exposes the systemic, institutionalized and personal racism that is embedded within the DNA of this country. We mourn because still today white power and comfort is valued over black life.

As fellow followers of the God of justice, we at St. Andrew's recommit ourselves to standing alongside you as partners for God's mission in the world. If we are to be faithful partners in ministry, we cannot remain silent in the face of the injustices committed against black Americans. We renounce the abuse of power and privilege used to oppress and harm people of color. We stand against all hatred based on the color of a person's skin. We stand against systemic racism and white supremacy in all its forms, including the economic and social sins which impact the lives of black Madisonians daily.

We also repent. We recognize and repent of the troubling history of The Episcopal Church's participation and furthering of slavery, prejudice and racial injustice. We repent of the ways power and authority have been used to suppress and oppress. We confess that even today we have not used that power, authority and privilege to speak out and create systemic change for our black brothers and sisters. We are truly sorry, and we humbly repent.

As partners in Christ we stand ready to speak up and speak out; to raise our voice against racial injustice and prejudice. We remain grateful and blessed by St. Paul AME's presence and ministry here in Madison. We pray that this partnership kindled in 2018, will grow into one of friendship and trust; and we recognize we must do the work for this to be so.

God's grace and blessing be upon each of you today and always,

The Rev. Andy Jones

The Rev. Melesa McEwan Skoglund

The Vestry of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church