

Dear People of Christ Church and beyond,

The murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis by police has once again ignited righteous protests against the ongoing violence done to black people. The mostly peaceful protests have unfortunately spurned violence both by some protesters and by the authorities. Floyd's death was the triggering event for the protests, but the underlying issue is systemic racism that has existed since the American continents were settled by Europeans. Churches over the centuries, even the Episcopal Church, have been complicit by accepting and conforming to systemic racism in our society. Our Baptismal Covenant includes the question, "Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?" We are complicit if we act as that question only applies to people like us. We are complicit if we ignore this question, and do not speak up and stand up. I admit my own complicity.

As I said in my Monday video message, I struggled with the question of what I can do. I can speak up and stand up. And yesterday I heard about a neighborhood that stood up to address racism. Shawn Dromgoole is a 29-year-old black man who lives in Nashville, TN. He has lived all his life in the same neighborhood, but it has gentrified. Black families moved out and white families moved in. The recent deaths of two black men by police scared him. He worried that this could happen to him. He saw on Nextdoor, a social media app, that there were frequent posts for residents to look out for "suspicious black men" in his neighborhood. He wouldn't leave his property. Finally, Shawn took to social media and announced he was going to take a walk and invited his neighbors to join him. Seventy-five of his neighbors, mostly white, stood up for Shawn and walked with Shawn. We don't need to have all the answers to step up and be allies to our brothers and sisters.

Faithfully,

Ron

Ongoing Events through June 12, 2020

Friday, June 5: Christ Church Reads the Bible at 3:00 pm

Mark Brummitt will continue to explore discuss Paul's Letter to the Galatians.

Sunday, June 7:, Virtual Coffee Hour at 11:00 am

A time to chat, socialize, and ask questions.

Sunday, June 7; Virtual Youth Group on Sunday at Noon

A time of reflection and fellowship for youth in grades 6-12 and for recent high school graduates.

Tuesday, June 8: Meditation at Noon (This will be the last meditation until September)

The meditation group led by Suzanne Lee offers guided mindfulness meditations as well as similar activities.

Mindfulness exercises are designed to promote focus on the immediate and its benefits include reduction of stress and anxiety.

Wednesday: June 10: Midweek Service at 10:00 am

A short service of Morning Prayer

Wednesday: June 10: Bible Study at 11:00 am

[Click here](#) to find this week's reading. (Matthew 9:35 – 10.8)

Friday, June 12: Christ Church Reads the Bible at 3:00 pm

We will be reading and exploring Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians.