

“A voice was heard in Ramah,

wailing and loud lamentation,

Rachel weeping for her children;

she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.”

University Lutheran Church of Hope grieves the death of #GeorgeFloyd and stands alongside our neighbors and community partners seeking justice and accountability. We condemn the violence perpetrated on protestors and mourners by police. For far too long Black and Brown Americans have been targeted and killed by law enforcement officers sworn to protect and serve our community. This cycle of violence and oppression is rooted in systemic and structural racism and the evils of white supremacy.

In our baptism we are called to renounce the devil and all the forces of evil, and to work towards a world that reflects God’s justice. As a church, we are being called to step into this baptismal promise here and now. We join our neighbors in calling for justice to be done in Minneapolis, St. Paul, and our communities across the state, for peace to be known in our streets, and for steps towards a new future where every person is treated with dignity and concern.

There is so much healing to be done in our community and across this country, and as resurrection people we have been set free through Christ to be servants of that healing work. We will continue to do our part to be a voice of healing and justice in our community by leveraging our resources, time, and presence to support and stand with those who bear the brunt of violence and oppression.

As we approach Pentecost, we remember that the Holy Spirit holds the space between what is and what may be. And though we may not know what the future holds for this case, for our city, or for our country, we have faith that led by the Spirit we will journey towards a more just and equitable world for all people.

Continue to offer your prayers for the family of George Floyd, for the protestors and organizers on the ground, for our leaders, for the law enforcement officers across our city, and for justice to be done. Please consider sending a financial contribution to the Minnesota Freedom Fund to ensure that those arrested may be able to post bail, or to those organizations leading on the ground including Black Visions Collective and Reclaim the Block.

May justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream. Amen.