

Personal Statement

On top of the coronavirus pandemic that has put a huge strain on this and other countries and which is far from being resolved despite our fantasized hopes to the contrary, we now have the added agony of having to watch yet again the unwarranted killing of a black man, George Floyd, at the hands of those committed to protect and serve as well as the consequent senseless violence, destruction and looting that has followed in its wake. We feel the pain of all victims of unreasonable force by police or others. We know the outrage and anger of peaceful protestors who are tired of these seemingly endless attacks on people of color and who have known more than their share of discrimination, abuse and injustice over the course of our nation's history. As followers of Jesus Christ and as members of this congregation we are committed to working to end racism, prejudice, disc and discrimination by individuals and human institutions and systems. We seek better to understand our own obvious or subtle culpability that ignores or excuses blatant evil and sin. We seek God's forgiveness and mercy for us and others and pray that God may use the raw pain of this most recent tragedy to open the eyes of all that we may someday soon see the end of this other plague among us that injures and kills God's children and threatens this country we love. May God help us and may God even use us to be instruments in creating a beloved community where all may live in peace and security with justice and equity for all and in harmony with God and neighbor.

As your Transitional Pastor I would challenge each of us in any way we can to examine our own lives, our own attitudes and actions, and thus become part of the solution to this pandemic of hatred and violence within and around us. Scripture tells us that we cannot love God whom we do not see unless we love the neighbor that we do see. And Gandhi once said, "Be the change that you wish to see in the world." Friends in Christ, if we are not part of the solution then we are invariably part of the problem. Silence and inaction are complicity in this critical matter and our words and continuing work are urgently needed. Edmund Burke observed rightly: "All that is needed for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing."

I am convinced that with God's help we will not resort to saying and doing nothing. I believe this grand old church in the heart of the city will not turn a blind eye or a deaf ear to the scenes and sounds of hatred, violence, injustice and pain about us

May the Lord be our guide and stay as we continue in his reconciling ministry!

Danny Massie
Transitional Pastor