



April 23, 2021

*And the LORD said, "What have you done? Listen;  
your brother's blood cries out to me from the ground!"*  
Genesis 4:10

Dear Richfield UMC,

We lift you in prayer as we write to you this week. On May 30, 2020, we wrote to you in the aftermath of the killing of George Floyd. We wrote a simple truth that remains as true today: "he was a friend of Jesus, and one of our siblings in Christ." Since then, much has happened, including this week when former police officer Derek Chauvin found guilty on the counts he faced for killing George Floyd. There has been much breathing - of taking in and exhaling the Holy Spirit - in our midst accompanied by layers of tragedy and trauma. May we breathe the Spirit. **Lord, in your mercy.**

We are a church who believes in the practice of prayer. Pray for your city and nation; may we build resurrection out of trauma and tragedy. Pray for the family of George Floyd; may they feel the comforting presence of the Holy Spirit. Pray for George Floyd; may his eternal life be in the embrace of our loving God. Pray for the stalwart community advocates; may their work be unto us the call of Jesus to action. Pray for former officer Derek Chauvin; may he receive the grace of God as we all are beloved children of the Holy. Pray for the children; may the future be just. **Lord, in our mercy.**

Our clergy colleague, Rev. LaQuaan Malachi of North UMC in Minneapolis, preached on Christian action amidst racist-filled tension in [the Aug. 30, 2020 worship service](#): "Justice is God's business... It is not your job to complete the work, but neither are you free to abandon it... Welcome to the fight. We have been praying for your arrival." [Pastor Malachi reminds again this week](#), the fight, struggle, and work of justice is not over: "As we look ahead, it is important for all of us to be honest about the ways we participate in harm and to reduce and cease that harm going forward." We have many beloved causes as a church, friends, and the cause of antiracism and the pursuit of justice is an ongoing, life-saving, missional priority. Like the recent example of your church's new [land acknowledgment](#) which is *one step* of racial reconciliation and repentance, it is not the last. The work of building the kingdom of heaven is ongoing; it does not end with a verdict. We take time to pause and breathe in the Holy Spirit. And the work continues, as it must. **Lord, in your mercy.**

At the conclusion of the Gospel of John, the writer declares that this is not the end of the story: "There are also many other things that Jesus did; if every one of them were written down, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written." May feel the call from Jesus to partner again and again to write stories of justice, restoration, and resurrection. We are proud to be your clergy team and of you, Church, as we partner in pursuit of God's loving justice.

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