



June 3, 2020

*FAITH AND RACISM  
INVITATION TO ONLINE PRAYER AND REFLECTION  
TOMORROW NIGHT  
THURSDAY, JUNE 4, AT 7:30 P.M.*

In Christian faith, we commit to love our neighbors as ourselves. We commit to follow the way of Jesus, a man from an oppressed minority within the Roman Empire who was unjustly killed by the state. The death and resurrection of Jesus reveal both the sin of violence and God's power to overcome it. In the scriptures, we remember God's redemption of the Israelites from slavery in Egypt, and God's call for justice after Adam and Eve's son Abel was killed by Cain, his brother. It was Cain who asked God, "Am I my brother's keeper?" and the answer is "Yes." We are our brother's keeper; our sister's keeper.

The killing of George Floyd last week in Minneapolis is an injustice that reverberates with the history of systemic racism in this country, where justice for African-Americans and other people of color has been delayed, denied, and pre-empted as a matter of regular practice. The hallowed idea that all people are created equal, as proclaimed in the Declaration of Independence, is a promissory note that has yet to be fully honored.

Our congregation began its life on February 24, 1847, when thirty founding members signed the original Covenant and Confession of Faith. At that time, there were two specific requirements for church membership: pledges to temperance and to anti-slavery. From the beginning, our church has proclaimed that faithful Christian discipleship includes resistance to racial injustice. We are a church that joins in covenant, confesses our faith, and seeks change in the world.

Let us continue in this faith by praying, listening, learning, supporting, and acting to free our society from the sin of racism. Let us continue to seek justice in the world, just as our church's founding members pledged themselves to the abolition of slavery.

I invite you to join me, Rev. Judy Swahnberg, and Rev. Anne Marie Holloway for a special online meeting for prayer and reflection this Thursday evening, June 4, at 7:30 p.m. via Zoom video conference. (The information you need to participate appears below.) We will open this meeting

in prayer, and then we will invite people to share their own experiences and reflect on how we understand God to be leading us. Those who want to prayerfully listen are very welcome as well. There will be other ways to pray, reflect, and act together in the weeks ahead as we seek to be faithful to the God of new life.

Peace,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Matt". The signature is stylized with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Rev. Dr. Matthew Wooster  
Senior Minister

**TO JOIN THE ZOOM MEETING:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88531841091?pwd=K3ZoaTdJbEw1SlNZSXdZZmtUZ1pzZz09>

Meeting ID: 885 3184 1091

Password: 117694

One tap mobile

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