



St. Luke the Physician Episcopal Church

Vigil for Black Lives

June 7, 2020

Opening You have called us in righteousness.
Let us respond with justice.

Gathering Gather us in Lord, open our ears and unite our hearts and bodies as we prepare to worship you. We pray to you, O Lord.

For those who are sick and tired of being sick and tired. (*Fannie Lou Hamer*)

For those who demonstrate the miracle of life by their very presence in a country where "It should not require a miracle simply to be Black and alive."

(*Rev. Dr. Kelly Brown Douglas*)

For those doing the work of overturning evil systems which "inhibit more beauty than they create." (*Monica A. Coleman*)

For those using their skills in "social dislocation and creative trouble."

(*Bayard Rustin*)

For those who recognize that "Oppressive language does more than represent violence; it is violence..." (*Toni Morrison*)

For those transforming their "silence into language and action." (*Audre Lorde*)

For those "doing the work your soul must have." (*Rev. Dr. Katie G. Cannon*)

For those who are enraged. (*James Baldwin*)

For those "committed to the survival and wholeness of entire people."

(*Alice Walker*)

For Black Life, which matters. Amen.

Music

Say Their Names

David McAtee, 53 years old - A man who used barbecue to help his community

Tony McDade, 38 years old - A transgender man who lived his life courageously

George Floyd, 46 years old - Father of three children, a man who loved and uplifted his community

Breonna Taylor, 26 years old - An EMT who was looking forward to starting a family

Ahmaud Arbery, 26 years old - A man who never said goodbye to his loved ones without saying I love you.

Trayvon Martin

Yvette Smith

Eric Garner

Michael Brown

Laquan McDonald

Tanisha Anderson

Akai Gurley

Tamir Rice

Jerame Reid

Natasha McKenna

Eric Harris

Walter Scott

Freddie Gray

William Chapman

Sandra Bland

Darrius Stewart

Samuel DuBose

Janet Wilson

Calin Roquemore
Alton Sterling
Philando Castile
Joseph Mann
Terence Crutcher
Chad Robertson
Jordan Edwards
Aaron Bailey
Stephon Clark
Danny Ray Thomas
Antwon Rose
Botham Jean
Atatiana Jefferson
Michael Dean

And many more...

**Black Men and Women killed by
police in the Portland area:**

Lloyd 'Tony' Stevenson
Kendra James
Deontae Keller
Quanice Hayes
Patrick Kimmons
Keaton Otis
Terrell Kyreem Johnson
Andre C. Gladen
Aaron M. Campbell
James Jahar Akbar Perez
Christopher Kalonji
Jason Washington

Silence

A Litany for Those not Ready for Healing, By Dr. Yolanda Pierce, 2016

Let us not rush to the language of healing,
before understanding the fullness of the injury and the depth of the wound.

Let us not rush to offer a bandaid,
when the gaping wound requires surgery and complete reconstruction.

Let us not offer false equivalencies,
thereby diminishing the particular pain being felt in a particular circumstance in a particular historical moment.

Let us not speak of reconciliation without speaking of reparations and restoration,
or how we can repair the breach and how we can restore the loss.

Let us not rush past the loss of this mother's child,
this father's child, someone's beloved child.

Let us not value property over people;
let us not protect material objects while human lives hang in the balance.

Let us not value a false peace
over a righteous justice.

Let us not be afraid
to sit with the ugliness, the messiness, and the pain that is life in community together.

Let us not offer clichés to the grieving,
those whose hearts are being torn asunder.

Instead...

Let us mourn black and brown men and women, those killed extrajudicially every
28 hours.

Let us lament the loss of a teenager, dead at the hands of a police officer who
described him as a demon.

Let us weep at a criminal justice system, which is neither blind nor just.

Let us call for the mourning men and the wailing women, those willing
to rend their garments of privilege and ease, and sit in the ashes of this nation's
original sin.

Let us be silent when we don't know what to say.

Let us be humble and listen to the pain, rage, and grief pouring from the lips of our neighbors and friends.

Let us decrease, so that our brothers and sisters who live on the underside of history may increase.

Let us pray with our eyes open and our feet firmly planted on the ground.

Let us listen to the shattering glass and let us smell the purifying fires, for it is the language of the unheard.

Let us join our voices together:

God, in your mercy...

Show me my own complicity in injustice.

Convict me for my indifference.

Forgive me when I have remained silent.

Equip me with a zeal for righteousness.

Never let me grow accustomed or acclimated to unrighteousness.

May Almighty God have mercy on us, grant us courage and conviction, and strengthen us to love others who are unlike us. May God, the Holy and Undivided Trinity, make us compassionate in our actions and courageous in our works, that we may see Christ's Beloved Community in our own day. **Amen.**

Litany of Demands

God, we thank you for every miracle among us. And we especially thank you today for the fresh outpouring of your Spirit—in Washington, DC, and Gresham and little towns in Wyoming, in Korea and Senegal and Berlin—that has filled the streets with people proclaiming with their bodies and their voices that Black Lives Matter, Black futures matter, Black love matters, Black joy matters.

Today we lift up to you the prayers of your people in the words of the policy platform of the Movement for Black Lives:

For investments in the education, health and safety of Black people, instead of investments in the criminalizing, caging, and killing of Black people.

Lord hear our prayer and empower us with your Spirit.

For reparations for past and continuing harms.

Lord hear our prayer and empower us with your Spirit.

For economic justice for all and a reconstruction of the economy to ensure Black communities have collective ownership.

Lord hear our prayer and empower us with your Spirit.

For Relief efforts from Covid-19 that prioritize black families and communities over corporations.

Lord hear our prayer and empower us with your Spirit.

Holy One, gather these prayers, infuse them with the strength of our ancestors, inspire us with the strategy and love and wisdom and drive to make them a reality. We pray this in the name of the One who taught us to look for and create your kingdom on earth. **Amen.**

Music

Prayer

Our time together tonight is coming to a close, but our work continues. As we hold in our hearts all who have been killed because of the spiritual sickness of white supremacy, let us go forth with the strength the Creator gave us, the deep love Jesus taught us, and the courage the Spirit gives us, to create justice that rolls down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

Thanks be to God.

Please depart or feel free to linger in this holy space in silence.