

THE Episcopal CHURCH

YOUNG ADULT & CAMPUS MINISTRIES

Litany for Social Justice



**Siblings in Christ,
God created the whole human
family in God's own image.
God calls us to listen to the
prophets who have come before
us and those that live among us.
God commands us to love God,
love our neighbors, and love
ourselves.**





In baptism, we promise to seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving our neighbors as ourselves.

We promise to strive for justice and peace, and respect the dignity of every human being.

We promise that whenever we fall into sin, we will repent and return to the Lord.

We promise these things, knowing we will need God's help. We come today, asking for God's help.



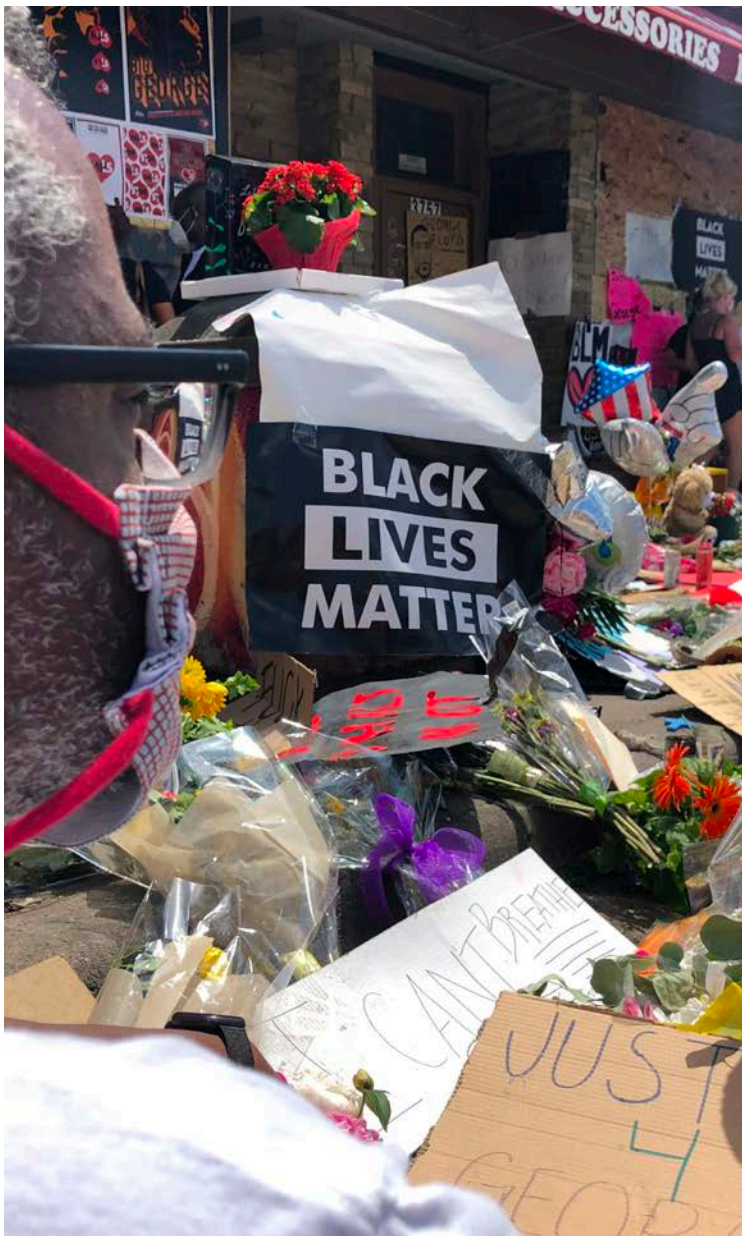
We gather to pray for all whose lives have been forever altered by racial violence.

Today, we remember your beloved child, George Floyd. We remember every other black life lost to police brutality, racial injustice, and white supremacy.

(please offer your intercessions silently or aloud.)

God of love and justice,
Hear our prayer.





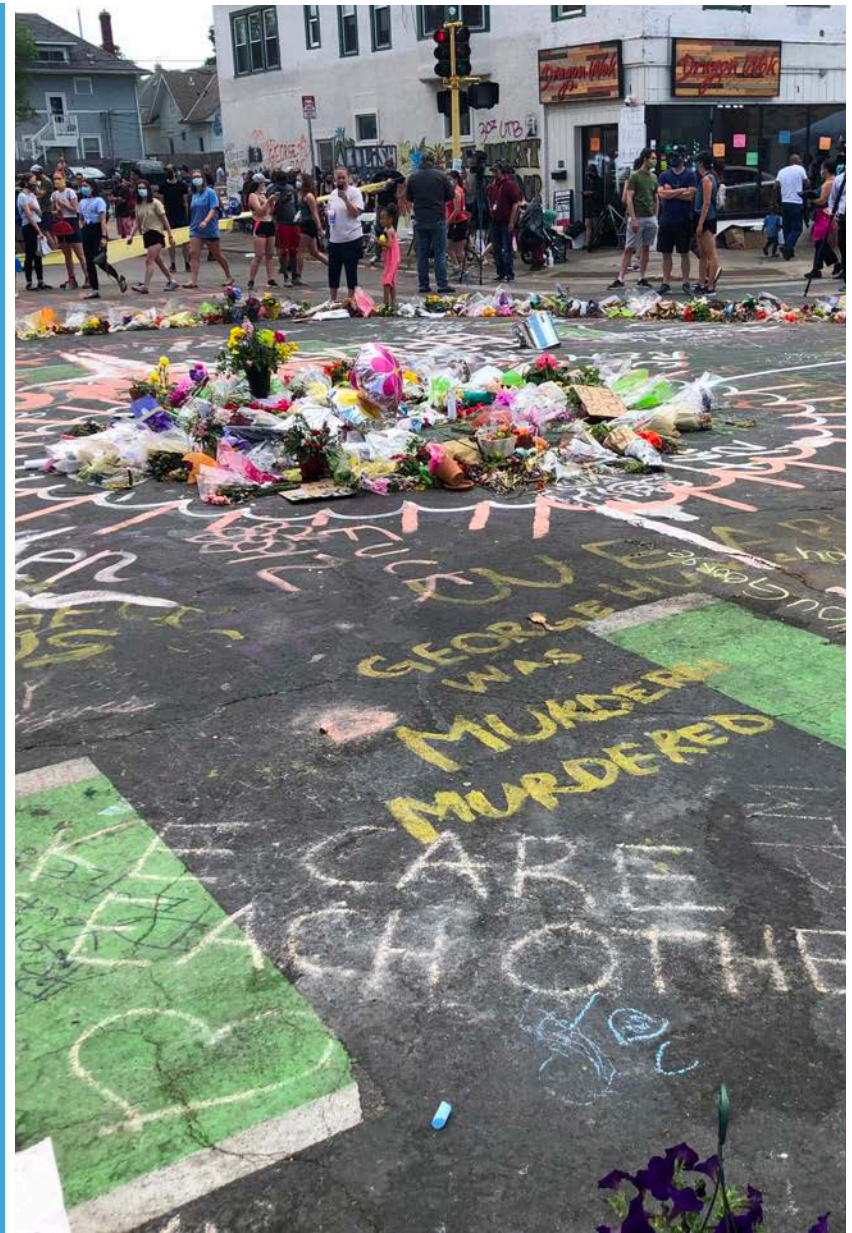
We pray for those who protest,
for those who speak truth to
power, for those who work for
justice, for those who offer
medical aid, for those who clean
up communities when there is
damage and destruction, and for
those who feed and care for
their neighbor.

God of the people,
Hear our prayer.



We pray for continued blessings on all peacemakers, on leaders who value peace, and on everyone who promotes nonviolent solutions to conflict. We pray for a speedy end to all violence and warfare around the world.

God of peace and gentleness,
Hear our prayer.





We pray for all children and families, and particularly for the orphaned, neglected, abused, and those who live in fear of violence or disease; that they may be comforted and protected.

We pray especially for the family of George Floyd and those who have had family members taken from them because of their race, ethnicity, or gender.

God of children and families,
Hear our prayer.



We pray for an end to prejudice throughout our country and the world; that we respect all people as precious children of God; and that racism, sexism, and all other forms of discrimination will be forever banished from our hearts, our society, and our laws.

God of fellowship and equality,
Hear our prayer.





We pray for the strength of heart and mind to look beyond ourselves and address the needs of our siblings throughout the world; for the rural and urban poor; for the rebuilding of our communities; and for an end to the cycles of violence that threaten our future.

God of generosity and compassion,

Hear our prayer.



We pray for all immigrants,
refugees, and pilgrims from
around the world, that they
may be welcomed in our
midst and be treated with
fairness, dignity, and respect.

God of outcasts and
wanderers,
Hear our prayer.





We pray that the Holy Spirit may embrace the most vulnerable members of our society; we pray also for an end to the growing disparity between the rich and poor; and for the grace and courage to strive for economic justice.

God of all gifts and blessings,
Hear our prayer.



We pray for all prisoners and captives; that a spirit of forgiveness may replace vengeance and retribution; and that we, with all the destitute, lonely, and oppressed, may be restored to the fullness of God's grace.

God of absolution and mercy,
Hear our prayer.





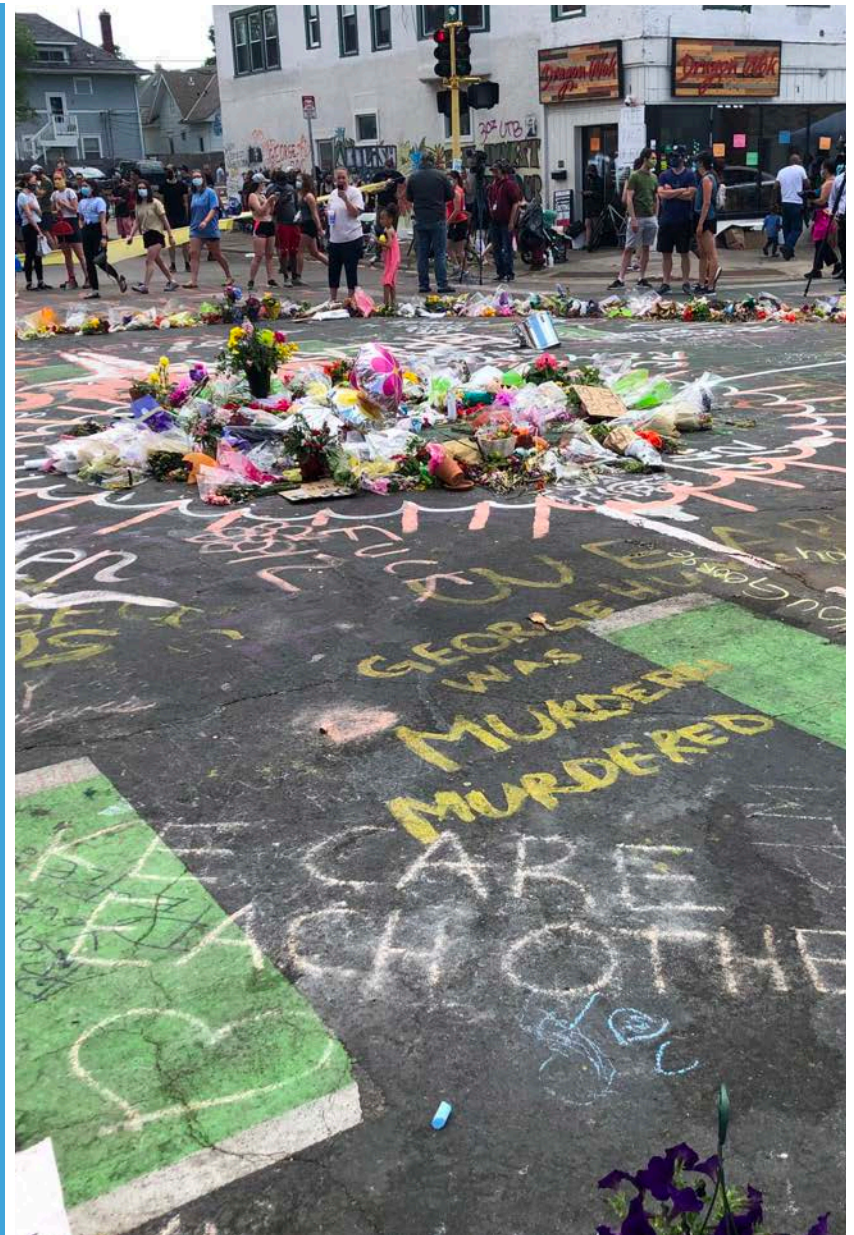
We pray for the sick, the aged and the infirm; for those with physical or mental disabilities; that all may have access to proper health care; and that God's loving embrace may be felt by all who suffer.

God of comfort and healing,
Hear our prayer.



We pray for all nations, that we may live in unity, peace, and concord; and that all people may know justice and enjoy the perfect freedom that only God can give.

God of liberty and freedom,
Hear our prayer.





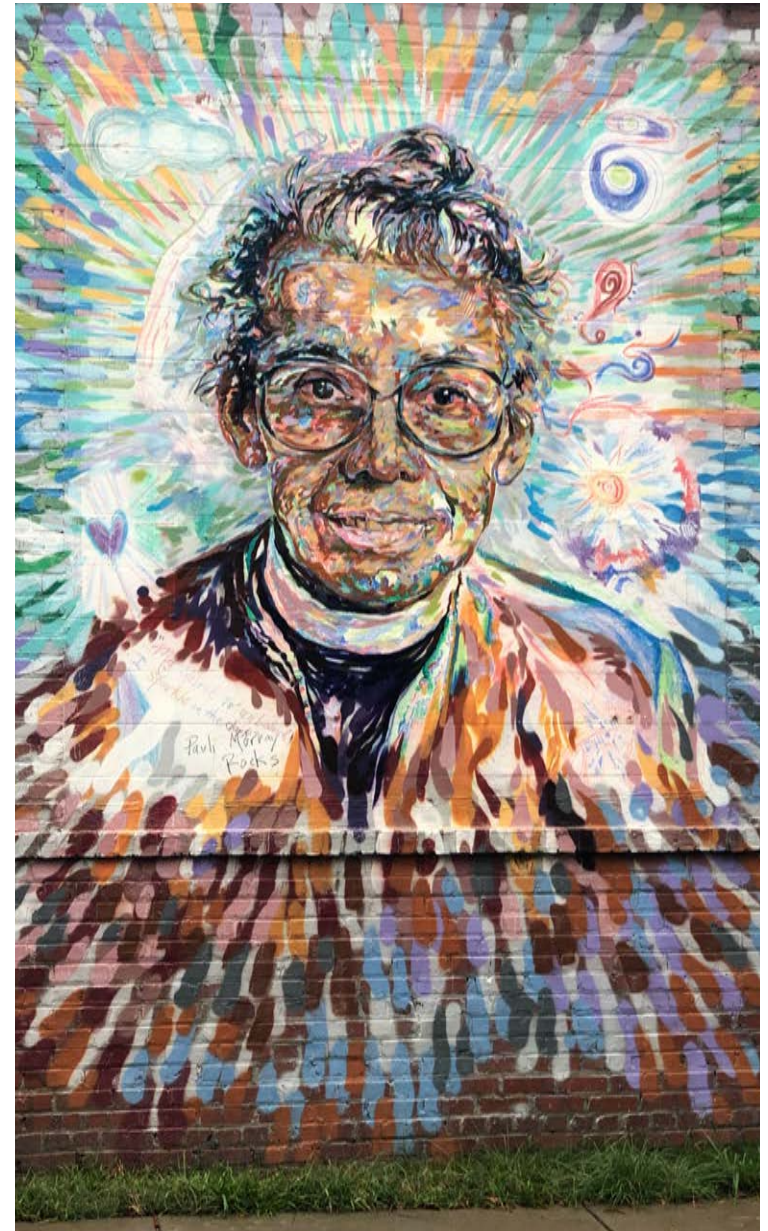
We pray that we may be good stewards of creation; that we will have the tools and the will to conserve it; that we will use its bountiful resources in the service of others; and that we will become better caretakers of all that has been entrusted to us.

God of nature and the universe,
Hear our prayer.



We pray for the reconciliation
of all people, and for the
Church throughout the world,
that it may be an instrument
of your healing love.

God of outreach and
restoration,
Hear our prayer.





We pray for all who have died as a result of violence, war, disease or famine, especially those who died because of neglect, hardness of heart, or because we have willfully ignored the plight of our neighbor.

God of eternal life and resurrecting love,
Hear our prayer.



Confession

Let us confess our sins against God and one another.

Almighty God, Source of all that is, Giver of every good gift: You create all people in your image and call us to love one another as you love us. We confess that we have failed to honor you in the great diversity of the human family. We have desired to live in freedom, while building walls between ourselves and others. We have longed to be known and accepted for who we are, while making judgements of others based on the color of skin, or the shape of features, or the varieties of human experience. We have tried to love our neighbors individually while yet benefitting from systems that hold those same neighbors in oppression.

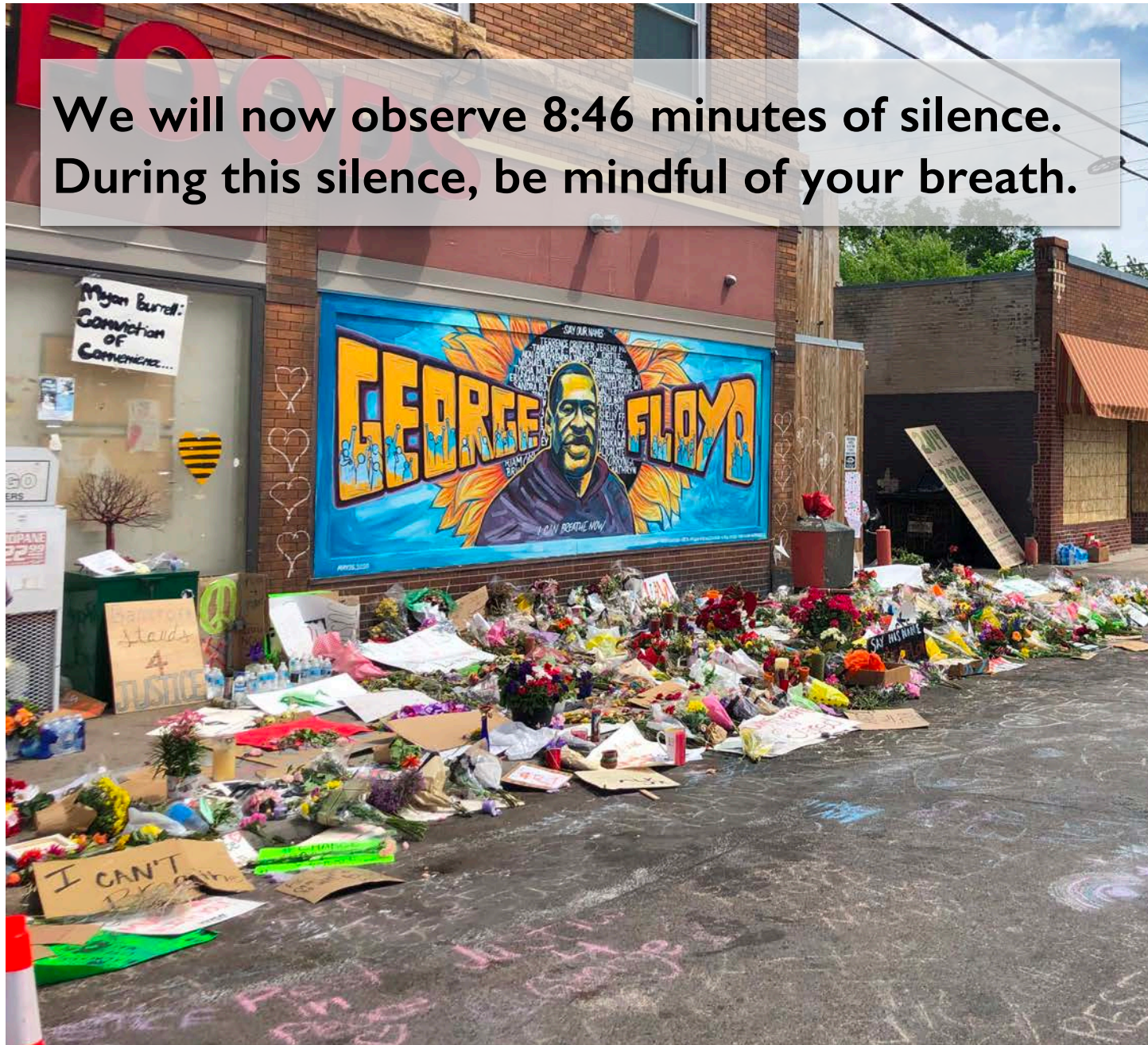


(Confession continued)

Forgive us, Holy God. Give us eyes to see you as you are revealed in all people. Strengthen us for the work of reconciliation rooted in love. Restore us in your image, to be beloved community, united in our diversity, even as you are one with Christ and the Spirit, Holy and undivided Trinity, now and for ever. Amen.



We will now observe 8:46 minutes of silence.
During this silence, be mindful of your breath.



O God, you made us in your own image and redeemed us through Jesus your Son: Look with compassion on the whole human family; take away the arrogance and hatred which infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; unite us in bonds of love; and work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish your purposes on earth; that, in your good time, all nations and races may serve you in harmony around your heavenly throne; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.



This service was created by the Office of Young Adult and Campus Ministries using the following resources:

- <https://episcopalchurch.org/posts/ogr/episcopal-litany-social-justice>
- <https://episcopalmn.org/assets/pdfs/Litany%20for%20Minnesota's%200sins%20of%20racism.pdf>
- Book of Common Prayer p. 815
- <https://liturgyandmusic.files.wordpress.com/2018/01/prayers-sclm-racial-reconciliation-and-justice-final-1-3.pdf>

Photo Credit to: Wendy Johnson, Bronwyn Skov, and Shannon Kelly

