A Statement on Continuing Police Brutality and White Supremacy from Judson Memorial Church

Four more names have joined the list of Black people heartlessly killed by police officers, human beings whose breath and life have been cut short by rampant, normalized, long-unchecked racism. We speak these names, George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, and Tony McDade, knowing that these horrific losses are only those uncovered and reported, among so many that go unreported. These horrific losses quickly drop from our news cycle, even as we witness other incidents like the one recorded by Christian Cooper, as he was confronted by this country's insidiously pervasive casual white supremacist attitude that might not always lead to death, but still always very well could.

After years of hearing the chanting of "I can't breathe," after years of witnessing this continuing brutality against Black bodies, after years of knowing how deeply racist this country remains, these latest unnecessary examples demand that all of us at Judson, all people of moral conscience, and especially all white people, loudly and actively recommit ourselves to the necessary racial justice that must become a priority in this country.

Today, we recommit to praying, we recommit to protesting, but we also especially recommit to faithfully interrogating the evil rot of racism that has too long been allowed to fester in this country. We stand in solidarity with the uprising in this country, we support the Black community and all who are demanding justice and accountability for these losses and who are generating new visions for a different future, one free of the racist systems that have stolen lives and breath for countless years.

No hashtag is enough. Saying names is not enough. We must daily renew our actively faithful commitment to the spiritual imperative to stop this hate, to stop this violence, to stop this racism at its root, until all Black people can live, breathe, and thrive freely, and until we all actively live the truth that Black Lives Matter.

#JusticeForFloyd
#JusticeForAhmaud
#JusticeForBreonna
#JusticeForTony
#BlackLivesMatter