

STATEMENT ON THE EVENTS FOLLOWING THE MURDER OF GEORGE FLOYD

“How long, O Lord? Will you forget me forever?” (Psalm 13:1)

Like the psalmist, **people are weary of injustice** and crying out in the face of another routine interaction with police that ends in death for a black person. We are reminded that Jesus bypassed oppressive systems which held people impoverished and ill to chase out the money changers and heal the sick. Across the country we see escalations of control tactics, instigations of violence by some, and peaceful protests demanding justice by many. I urge our leaders and all of us to listen to those protesting the systemic racism this country was built on and that persists today.

To fellow white people – we must do our work, using our voice, our privilege, our power, our actions. **We must listen to black and brown voices calling for justice today**, the voices, words, and stories of the ancestors calling for justice yesterday, and ensure the enactment of visions of justice for tomorrow. **Do not lay this work upon our siblings of color.** Take up this mantle and go. This work must infuse your every vote, your every step, your every breath lest we hear the words once more, “I can’t breathe.”

Today we mark Pentecost. May the Spirit come upon us as Spirit came two thousand years ago, helping us imagine and live out new ways of being together. While we continue our strategic work of preparation for this Foundry community and how we will dismantle the white supremacy of our own church, we embrace the Holy Spirit’s call to be enactors and pursuers of justice now. **By Spirit’s lead, may we learn from, listen to, and understand our neighbors.** In so doing, may we receive the truth of God’s love for us and this beautiful broken world. It will not be easy, but we are not alone. God is with us.

With each of you,



Rev. Ginger E. Gaines-Cirelli
Senior Pastor