

A message from

Bishop Devadhar

April 20, 2021

*God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble. — Psalm 46:1*

Beloved in Christ,

Greetings in the precious name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

We have been collectively holding our breath for many long months as we've suffered through the dual pandemics of COVID-19 and unrelenting racism.

In the past few months, we have begun to see a ray of hope with the distribution of effective vaccines. Today, the conviction of Derek Chauvin on all charges provides a measure of justice for George Floyd and that ray of hope for all who've been waiting for accountability.

Even as we recall with anguish George Floyd's dying cry, "I can't breathe," perhaps we can now begin to exhale fear and inhale hope.

George Floyd's murder prompted a worldwide movement of people of all ages and races, coming together in solidarity to address and denounce systems built on inequality and hatred. Today's verdict was a step forward in bringing justice, but there is still so much work to do.

Justice is not complete until all children of God can live together in community, with mutual respect and dignity and equity.

As proud citizens and residents of the United States, let us work to bring to reality the final words of our pledge "with liberty and justice for all."

As people of God, followers of Jesus Christ, let us join in prayer for the Floyd family as well as the Chauvin family. Let us pray for victims of violence and racism and for those who commit such acts. And may all — protestors and protectors alike — heed the call to peace and non-violence.

When we hear the voices of those crying out for justice, may we respond with the heart of Christ, so that no one has to suffer such heartbreak again.

Tonight, we exhale, though we continue to mourn the loss that brought us to this day and the thousands of others who did not receive justice.



Bishop's Office

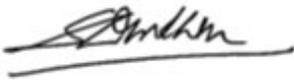
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And tomorrow let us wake up and inhale hope, with a renewed call to action and accountability for ourselves and for one another as we continue to work for God's Beloved Community.

In Christ's Love,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sudarshana', written over a horizontal line.

Bishop Sudarshana Devadhar

Transformed by the Holy Spirit, united in trust,
we will **boldly** proclaim Christ to the world.