

*Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves; ensure justice for those being crushed.  
Yes, speak up for the poor and helpless, and see that they get justice. Proverbs 31:8-9 (NLT)*

Dear Brothers & Sisters of the LA Church,

Our nation is in a state of shock and disbelief. Seeing the video showing the taking of George Floyd's life by police officer DgtgmChauvin and other officers in Minneapolis on Monday May 25th, along with the unjust murders of Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, and other events like these, have sickened, enraged, saddened, and wounded us as a community. We are sorry beyond words for the deep, searing, disorienting pain many of you feel. We know you're hurting and want you to know that we're hurting with you.

We are seeking God's wisdom and desperately listening for His voice as to how we should best minister to you all, speak out against the evils of racism and police brutality in our country, be a light and positive force for change as a church to help rid our nation of this national shame and abhorrent sin, and respond "in a manner worthy of the Gospel of Christ," as Paul urged the church in Philippi to do. Not lost on us is the fact that many of you have experienced injustices of all kinds, and that there are many other wrongs that need to be spoken against and righted. Likewise, we have many brothers and sisters who are law enforcement and first responders. We pray for them in this difficult time as they must fulfill their duties and stand for righteousness as well. The actions of some bad officers do not represent them nor the vast majority of honorable public servants.

Leaders in all of our local churches/regions/sectors are focused on this issue and endeavoring to meet this moment in a Spirit-led way. Our diversity as a church is one of the greatest evidences to the grace of God among us. Though we are far richer for the differences we all bring to the table and blend together, the primary way we identify ourselves is not by race, gender, education, politics or economic status. We are first and essentially followers of our king, Jesus. Please pray for us and know that we are praying for you and love you deeply.

Grace and peace in Christ,

The LA Church Ministry Leadership Council and Elders