

Statement from the Racial Justice and Reconciliation Commission on the Verdict of the Derek Chauvin Trial

Like so many of you, the members of the Racial Justice and Reconciliation Commission (RJRC) of the Episcopal Church in Delaware lamented the loss of George Floyd when he was murdered by Derek Chauvin in May of 2020. We continue to grieve the countless lives lost to police brutality and racial violence.

The RJRC is thankful that the judicial system was successful in holding Mr. Chauvin accountable for this crime. While Mr. Floyd no longer exists in his earthly body, we believe that he has an eternal life with a great cloud of witnesses.

The commission is grateful for the diligent work of the prosecution team who so greatly honored the memory of Mr. Floyd. We continue to extend our prayers of healing and peace to the Floyd family, to Black and Brown persons, and to all those affected by racial injustices and trauma.

This is not the end of our work, nor is it the end of the work of the Church. On the contrary, this is just the beginning. As they are given a unique trust in society, all law enforcement officials must be held accountable for their actions. Toward this end, the Church must pray; we must, as we describe prayer, “respond to God, by thought and by deeds” (The Book of Common Prayer, p. 857). We must live our Baptismal promises to “strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being” (The Book of Common Prayer, p. 305).

We can all continue to honor the legacy of George Floyd by fighting for equal rights and liberties under the law. By acting in love, peace, grace, justice, and hope, both Delawareans and Episcopalians can continue to memorialize all who have been affected by any violence or tragedy.

We invite you to join us in this holy work. More information and resources on racial reconciliation, including the response from the Episcopal Church and our diocese, can be found at any of the links listed below: