

Doing Justice

A Service of reflection on the first
anniversary of the murder of George Floyd



Tuesday 25 May 2021 at 19:00

Recorded at NTCOG Community Church
Lambert Road, Brixton, London SW2 5BB

To view the broadcast visit: <http://youtube.com/ctbimedia>

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GEORGE FLOYD

14 OCTOBER 1973 – 25 MAY 2020

George Floyd was born George Perry Floyd Jr on 14 October 1973 in Fayetteville, North Carolina, USA. After his parents separated when he was two years old, he moved with his mother and siblings to Houston, Texas. As a student, 'Big Floyd', as he was known on account of his size, excelled at sports and considered a career in basketball and American football after school and college. (He won a football scholarship to attend South Florida Community College in Florida where he also played on the basketball team.)

After dropping out of college, he returned to Houston where he worked on cars and honed his craft as a hip-hop artiste. During his early twenties, George fell foul of the law, and between 1997 and 2005 he was incarcerated on a number of occasions for a variety of crimes. While in prison, he became a Christian and on release he began attending Resurrection Houston, a Christian church and ministry, where he mentored young men on the dangers of crime and drugs. (He had been battling drug addiction for a number of years.) In a further attempt to turn his life around he moved to Minneapolis, Minnesota in 2014, where he initially found work as a security guard at a Salvation Army homeless shelter. George would hold down several security roles between 2014 and 2020, however his sobriety struggles would also see him come to the attention of the local police.

On 25 May 2020, a store clerk alleged that George had passed a counterfeit \$20 note in a transaction. The police were called and during their attempt to arrest him, Derek Chauvin, one of four police officers who arrived on the scene, knelt on George's neck and back for over nine minutes. After his death, protests against police brutality, especially toward Black people, quickly spread across the United States and internationally.

On 20 April 2021, Derek Chauvin was convicted on two counts of murder and one count of manslaughter. The trial of the other three officers at the scene of his death is scheduled to begin on 23 August 2021.

ORDER OF SERVICE

Our hosts are theologian and academic, Eleasah Louis, and Mark Sturge,
theologian and writer

Introit and Preparation	Multimedia
Rendition: Lift up your voice and sing	John Fisher BEM and IDMC Choir
Welcome and opening remarks	Host
Reflection: 'No longer the same'	The Venerable and Revd Dr Rosemarie Mallett Archdeacon of Croydon Gabriel Dedji, University Student The Rt Revd Dr John Perumbalath, Bishop of Bradwell Dion-Marie White, Youth worker
Hymn: On Christ the solid rock I stand	John Fisher & IDMC Choir
Reflection: What's wrong with being Black?	Pastor Matthew Ashimolowo Senior Pastor, Kingsway International Christian Centre
Music Rendition	HURU
Scripture Reading 1: Psalms 44:24-26 and 13:2-3	Pastor Agu Irukwu Senior Pastor, Jesus House
Prayer for God's lifegiving breath	Various readers
Reflection: Our Theology Says No!	Revd Lynn Greene General Secretary, Baptist Union of Great Britain
Symbolic Action	Pupils of St Martin-in-the-Fields High School for Girls and Archbishop Tenison's School, Lambeth
With Coral Rendition: Walk with me	John Fisher BEM and IDMC Choir
One minute silence	
Poem: For the love of my people	Shermara Fletcher
Address: Doing Justice	Revd Les Isaac, CEO Ascension Trust
Solo: Encourage Yourself	Davinia Robinson
Scripture Reading 2: Luke 18:1-8	The Rt Revd Stephen Cottrell, Archbishop of York
Address: Justice and its importance in our world today	Revd Mandy Ralph Church of Scotland
Hymn – Guide me O' thou great Jehovah	John Fisher BEM and IDMC Choir
The Lord's Prayer	Various contributors
Benediction: Is there a Balm?	Led by Bishop Dr Eric Brown
Retiring song: Turn it around	John Fisher BEM and IDMC Choir

LIFT EVERY VOICE AND SING

Lift ev'ry voice and sing
'Til earth and heaven ring
Ring with the harmonies of Liberty
Let our rejoicing rise
High as the list'ning skies
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun
Let us march on 'til victory is won

Stony the road we trod
Bitter the chastening rod
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died
Yet with a steady beat
Have not our weary feet
Come to the place for which our fathers sighed?
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered
We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered
Out from the gloomy past
'Til now we stand at last
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast

God of our weary years
God of our silent tears
Thou who has brought us thus far on the way
Thou who has by Thy might
Led us into the light
Keep us forever in the path, we pray
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met Thee
Lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee
Shadowed beneath Thy hand
May we forever stand
True to our God
True to our native land

Songwriters: J. Rosamond Johnson/James Johnson

THE WELCOME

Eleasah Louis and Mark Sturge

THE TESTIMONIES

The Venerable and Revd Dr Rosemarie Mallett, Archdeacon of Croydon
Gabriel Dedji, University Student
The Rt Revd Dr John Perumbalath, Bishop of Bradwell
Dion-Marie White, Youth worker

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN

ON CHRIST THE SOLID ROCK I STAND

My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and
righteousness
I dare not trust the sweetest
frame
But wholly lean on Jesus' Name

On Christ the solid Rock I stand
All other ground is sinking sand
All other ground is sinking sand

When darkness seems to hide His
face
I rest on His unchanging grace
In every high and stormy gale
My anchor holds within the veil

On Christ the solid Rock I stand
All other ground is sinking sand
All other ground is sinking sand

His oath, His covenant, and His
blood
Support me in the whelming flood
When all around my soul gives
way
He then is all my Hope and Stay

On Christ the solid Rock I stand
All other ground is sinking sand
All other ground is sinking sand

WHAT'S WRONG WITH BEING BLACK?

Pastor Matthew Ashimolowo
Senior Pastor, Kingsway International Christian Centre

BLACK BEAUTÉ

Soloist: HURU

A celebration of the culture, diversity, history, creativity
and greatness that resides in all shades of Melanin

THE FIRST SCRIPTURE READING*

Pastor Agu Irukwu
Pastor of Jesus House (Redeemed Christian Church of God)
and Pentecostal President of Churches Together in England.

Why do you hide your face
and forget our misery and oppression?
We are brought down to the dust;
our bodies cling to the ground.
Rise up and help us;
rescue us because of your unfailing love.

How long must I wrestle with my thoughts
and day after day have sorrow in my heart?
How long will my enemy triumph over me?
Look on me and answer, LORD my God.
Give light to my eyes, or I will sleep in death,

Psalms 44:24-26 and 13:2-3

PRAYER FOR GOD'S LIFE-GIVING BREATH

Gracious and Holy One
Creator of all things and all people
We come to you praying to share in
your passion for justice.
Justice that will fill our lungs with
pure breath, like the air on a
mountain top

As pilgrims in the desert below we
come seeking to preserve your life-
giving breath
Rid us of gnawing dissatisfactions
and anxious imaginings, that take
your breath away
Rid us of biases and prejudices, that
take your breath away
**Gracious and Holy One give us
breath**

We are your people, of equal worth
and value
Take away our fretful
preoccupations and nagging
preconceptions, that take your
breath away
Take away the need to judge and
act according to race and ethnicity,
which take your breath away
**Gracious and Holy One give us
breath**

You created us to love you, each
other, and your creation
We repent of old ways of thinking

and the arrogance of being right,
that take your breath away
We repent that we have not been
fair, just and equitable, that take
your breath away
**Gracious and Holy One give us
breath**

Loosen us from the grip of sin that
binds and holds us captive
Loosen us from injustice and being
judged unjustly by others
**Lord without you we cannot
breathe**

Loosen our institutions from the
grip of institutional racism
Loosen our nations and our leaders
from habits that discriminate
**Lord without you we cannot
breathe**

Loving God, hold us as Mary held
your son
And breathe your life-giving Spirit
into us, so that we may be lifted
into the place where we are all your
children. Fill our lungs with your
overflowing and gracious breath, so
that we may continue on the road
towards justice. We pray this for all
people, in every place. In the name
of your life-giving Son, Jesus Christ.
Amen

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REFLECTION: OUR THEOLOGY SAYS NO!

Revd Lynn Greene
General Secretary, Baptist Union of Great Britain

ACT OF REMEMBRANCE

A cross will be placed on the dais by the hosts who will invite Pupils of St Martin-in-the-Fields High School for Girls and Archbishop Tenison's School, Lambeth to lay candles at the foot of the cross.

WALK WITH ME

John Fisher and IDMC Choir

For me to know ya
For me to understand your ways
To get to know ya
I'm drawing closer everyday
To feel the essence
Of your fragrance filled with love
I'm captivated, by the breath that
you breathe

Pre- chorus
Your word speaks life to me
By your side I wanna be
I'm drawing closer to you Lord
Let me feel your presence next to
me

Chorus
Walk with me, Walk with me
Blessed Jesus, walk with me
Speak to me Lord is my only plea
Blessed Jesus
Blessed Jesus

Blessed Jesus
Walk with me
So those around me Lord
Will be affected by your love
Walk with me

So, I can speak to mountains
And with the faith you give me
Lord
They will be moved

So men may know that by my light
I walk with Jesus day by day
Walk with me

It's my desire to be with you Lord

Pre-chorus 2
Your presence gives life to me
By your side I wanna be
I'm drawing closer to you Lord

Let me feel your presence next to me

Chorus

Walk with me, Walk with me
Blessed Jesus, walk with me
Speak to me Lord is my only plea
Blessed Jesus
Blessed Jesus
Blessed Jesus
Walk with me

Bridge

I surrender my will to you and say
Yes Lord
In your presence though I'm weak
Lord I am
Made strong

The still small voice of love
I hear it all around me
Soothing my heart, my mind, my
soul, my spirit
Making me new

Chorus

Walk with me, Walk with me
Blessed Jesus, walk with me
Speak to me Lord is my only plea
Blessed Jesus
Blessed Jesus
Blessed Jesus
Walk with me

Outro 1

In your presence, That's where I
wanna be

Outro 2

In Your presence there's love
That's where I wanna be

In Your presence there's peace
That's where I wanna be

In Your presence there's life
That's where I wanna be
Blessed Jesus
Blessed Jesus
Blessed Jesus
Walk with me

ONE MINUTE SILENCE

A minute's silence for George Floyd and all those who have lost their lives while in police custody, and to racial violence, in Britain and Ireland, was observed.

POEM: FOR THE LOVE OF MY PEOPLE

Shermara Fletcher

*Principal Officer for Pentecostal, Charismatic and Multi-cultural Relations,
Churches Together in England reads the poem*

For the love of my people
I will study myself
To discern who I have become
I will see how my mind has been
influenced
From the moment of my birth

For the love of my people
I will examine myself
For the visible and Invisible
Scars of the past
I will see how I have learned
To view myself with disdain

For the love of my people
I will open a book
and read of my legacy
As testified by the pens of my
sisters and brothers
And spoken from the minds of
Those who have known

For the love of my people
I choose recognise, respect and
utilise
Those gifts that the Creator has
given me
So that I may excel in all that I do
and am
So that I may be at peace with
myself

For the love of my people
I will challenge myself
Promise myself to change
To uncover the depths of the
Black woman that I am
In all her glory
With all her dreams

For the love of my people
I want to experience my life
As a beautiful Black creation of
God

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DOING JUSTICE:
The world as it is

Rev'd Les Isaac OBE, CEO of the Ascension Trust

ENCOURAGE YOURSELF

Soloist: Davinia Robinson

This song is dedicated to the survivors, families, friends, and all those who have affected by racism, discrimination, assaults, and racial abuse.

Donald Lawrence, The Tri-City Singers

THE SECOND READING

Luke 18: 1-8

The Most Revd and Rt Hon. Stephen Cottrell
Archbishop of York

Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up. He said: "In a certain town there was a judge who neither feared God nor cared what people thought. And there was a widow in that town who kept coming to him with the plea, 'Grant me justice against my adversary.'

"For some time he refused. But finally he said to himself, 'Even though I don't fear God or care what people think, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will see that she gets justice, so that she won't eventually come and attack me!'"

And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?"

ADDRESS: DOING JUSTICE

Justice and its importance in our world today

Revd Mandy Ralph, Church of Scotland

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN

GUIDE ME, O THOU GREAT JEHOVAH

Guide me, O Thou great Jehovah
Pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but Thou art mighty,
Hold me with Thy pow'rful hand.
Bread of heaven, Bread of heaven,
Feed me till I want no more;
Feed me till I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain,
Whence the healing stream doth
flow;
Let the fire and cloudy pillar
Lead me all my journey through.

Strong Deliv'rer, strong Deliv'rer,

Be Thou still my Strength and
Shield;
Be Thou still my Strength and
Shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan,
Bid my anxious fears subside;
Death of death and hell's
Destruction,
Land me safe on Canaan's side.

Songs of praises, songs of praises,
I will ever give to Thee;
I will ever give to Thee.

William Williams, pub.1745

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9-13

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass

against us.

And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.

Amen.

IS THERE A BALM?

Leader: Bishop Dr Eric Brown

Leader: Is there a balm to heal the hurt and pain of racial injustice?

The Rt Revd Rose Hudson-Wilkin, Bishop of Dover

There is a balm to heal the hurt and pain of racial injustice!

I have called my Church to bear witness through its love for one another
I have called my Church to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly before
me

I have called my Church to model equity and equality - In Christ there are no
chosen ones, and those who are cast aside; there are no 'privileged' or
'underprivileged'; there is no male or female. We are all one in him!

Lord Jesus, we are sorry that we have not been faithful witnesses
Merciful God, we are sorry that our example falls so far short of your
commands

Holy Spirit, help your Church to set the right example for this generation, and
the generations to come.

There is a balm for you and me

Leader: Is there a balm to mend the wounds and scars of racially motivated
violence?

His Eminence Archbishop Angaelos

There is a balm to mend the wounds and scars of racially motivated violence!

Crucified Christ, you were beaten, ridiculed, impaled, and suffered grave
indignities,

Expose the wicked deeds and the plans of the perpetrators of injustice
Pour your oil of gladness upon the wounded and all those who suffer the
scars of racism and prejudice

Be their helper, their source of strength and their voice of courage that they
might not be silent or silenced

Sovereign Lord, let justice roll down like a river and righteousness like an overflowing stream

In speech, in action, in decision making, in times of disappointment and struggle, may your Church and leaders of every kind, pursue justice and justice alone.

There is a balm for you and me

Leader: Is there a balm to heal the sin sick souls of racists, perpetrators, hostile environments, and institutional racism?

The Rt Revd Paul Hendricks, The Catholic Auxiliary Bishop of Southwark

There is a balm to heal the sin sick souls of racists, violent perpetrators, hostile environments, and institutional racism!

The Kingdom of God is not the utterance of politically correct words, insincere actions, and prejudice.

It is a Kingdom of power, of love, and of mercy

It is a Kingdom where every tribe, every ethnicity, every nation, every language is listened to, is heard, is valued, and understood

It is the Kingdom of communion - the sitting at the same table, the sharing of drink and the eating of food

It is a welcoming table of the beloved, the anti-racist, the reconcilers and those who seek Justice.

There is a balm for you and me

Leader: Is there a balm to heal the weary, the vulnerable, the disenfranchised, the underserved, the left out and the left behind?

Revd Inderjit Bhogal OBE, Methodist Church and Church of Sanctuary*

There is a balm to heal the weary, the vulnerable, the disenfranchised, the underserved, the left out and the left behind!

The Spirit of the Lord says come ...

Come you who are weary and heavy burdened, and I will give you rest.

Come you who are hungry, I am the bread of life
Come you who are lonely, and I will console and comfort you.
Come! Come! Come!

There is a balm for you and me

Leader: I am persuaded that:

There is a balm to heal the hurt and pain of racial injustice!

There is a balm to mend the wounds and scars of racially motivated violence!

There is a balm to heal the sin sick souls of racists, violent perpetrators,
hostile environments, and institutional racism!

There is a balm to heal the weary, the vulnerable, the disenfranchised, the
underserved, the left out and the left behind!

There is a balm for you and me

Written by © Mark Sturge

THE BLESSING

Rt Revd Christopher Chessun, Bishop of Southwark



Churches Together in Britain and Ireland (CTBI) is an agency of the churches which works to encourage Christian unity. It does this in partnership with the four National Ecumenical Instruments in Wales, Ireland, Scotland and England, and facilitates effective collaborative working across those nations, where necessary. It is the primary conduit for ecumenical engagement and conversations across the nations, listening closely, and responding to the shared needs and aspirations of the churches.

It has taken the specific lead role of encouraging racial justice in British and Irish churches over the last 50 years. CTBI coordinates activities to mark the annual Racial Justice Sunday events in February and resources churches in their racial work. Since the murder of George Floyd and the resulting Black Lives Matter protests, CTBI has provided a platform and a space for various conversations and activities on racial justice. It has hosted numerous webinars and meetings that have enabled Christians of all traditions and denominations to discuss everything from racism in the church to police and community engagement. In all instances, it uses the Christian scriptures as the basis of its call for greater justice and equity for all in Britain, Ireland and beyond.

For more information about CTBI's work see: www.ctbi.org.uk

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This service was compiled with the Government's COVID-19 guidelines for acts of worship at the recording of this service at NTCOG Community Church, Brixton, London. All social distancing recommendations regarding seating and the use of the premises were applied.

All forms of non-verbal worship activities were welcomed in the allocated seating area. Attendees were able to stand, clap, wave, and dance. However, masks were worn throughout the service, except where exempt, and congregants refrained from singing during the service.

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THANK YOU

We are grateful to Bishop Dr Eric Brown, Senior Pastor of the NTCG Community Church Brixton, and his team for allowing us to use this beautiful and historic building for this service.

We would also like to offer our sincere gratitude to all the participants who have offered their time and gifts to make this service a success.

We would like to thank the Racial Justice Advocacy Group, as well as colleagues in Wales, Scotland, Ireland and England for their guidance and wisdom in putting together this service.

Again, special thanks to all the participants; the pupils of St Martin-in-the-Fields High School for Girls and Archbishop Tenison's School, Lambeth; John Fisher and the IDMC Choir, and the musicians for their contribution to the worship and commemoration. Also, the JMAK Group Ltd and Peter Neill for their work on the sound, vision, and photography services.

This service will also be broadcast on BBC national and local radio on
30 May 2021 at 8.10am.