


## Lumen Christi Statement Following the Murder of George Floyd

As a culture, *we can't breathe*. We hear these words uttered daily by loved ones inflicted with the terrible coronavirus respiratory disease as they lay dying isolated. We hear these words echoed in the raspy voice of a dying black man named George Floyd who was pinned by police with a knee on the neck, whose unjustified murder brought the consciences of our country to attention.

As a parish community we cannot stay silent but must stand together in solidarity with all people of color, especially with our black brothers and sisters. We must acknowledge all the pain and resentment and hatred out there and the needless suffering that comes along with it. We must work for and demand radical justice in our communities, but even more basically, we must work to rediscover our radical connectedness. This begins as an inner journey. If God loves me, God loves everyone else as well, and the playing field is utterly leveled forever. We must confront our own prejudice and privilege. In the act of letting go and choosing to become servants of the neighbor as Jesus demands, authentic community can at last be possible. The illusory state of privilege just gets in the way of neighboring and basic human friendship. This cannot be tolerated – especially in our parish community. This is what we, as a parish, must teach our children, but first it must happen in us.

Our nation's history of racial injustice casts a shadow across the American landscape. This shadow cannot be lifted until we shine the light of truth on the destructive violence that has shaped our nation, traumatized people of color, and compromised our commitment to the rule of law and to equal justice. Only then will we, as a society, be able to breathe again.

  
Gene Scapanski  
Parish Trustee

  
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