From Bishop White:

Hear my cry, O God, 
and listen to my prayer.
I call upon you from the ends of the earth 
with heaviness in my heart: 
set me upon the rock that is higher than I. 
For you have been my refuge, 
a strong tower against the enemy.

Psalm 61:1-3

The cries of many in Louisville, Minneapolis, and around the country are being lifted to God, our refuge and strong tower. Our cries include prayers of lament, and prayers for justice, truth and accountability. Those prayers are not asking God to do something new, but are prayers for us, that we might be agents of change, because that journey to justice, respect, and peace begins with change in each of us.

That journey must be safe for all. As Tamika Palmer, Breonna Taylor’s mother says: “Breonna devoted her own life to saving other lives, to helping others, to making people smile and to bringing people together. The last thing she’d want right now is any more violence. Changes are being made but it’s not enough. We will not stop until there is truth, justice and accountability. Breonna’s legacy will not be forgotten and it’s because of all of us saying her name demanding justice. We are saying her name more each day, thank you. Please keep saying her name. Please keep demanding justice and accountability but let’s do it the right way without hurting each other. We can and we will make some real change here, now is the time, let’s make it happen but safely.”

The killing of Breonna Taylor is the latest in a long, painful saga in Louisville, and around the nation. Presiding Bishop Michael Curry addressed the killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis: “This crisis reflects deep sores and deep wounds that have been here all along. In the midst of COVID-19 and the pressure cooker of a society in turmoil, a man was brutally killed. The basic human right to life was taken away. His basic human dignity was stripped by someone charged to protect our common humanity. And perhaps the deeper pain of this is the fact that it’s not an isolated incident. The pain of this is that it’s a deep part of our life. It’s not just our history. It is American society today.

We are not, however, slaves to our fate ... unless we choose to do nothing." Let justice for Breonna, George, and Ahmaud happen now for them and their families, and let creating justice for all God’s children be our never-failing commitment, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. We cannot choose to do nothing.

I ask you to join me in prayer:

O Blessed Lord, the Father of mercies and the God of all comfort: receive, we beseech you, the souls of your children Breonna Taylor, George Floyd, and Ahmaud Arbery, that although they have been overtaken suddenly by death, they may yet receive your promised gift of everlasting life. And as the conscience of your people is troubled by their passing, give us a right
understanding of your will for us, confident you guide our feet onto the way of justice and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.”
(compiled by Dean Matt Bradley)
The work of our diocesan Racial Reconciliation Task Force continues. The fellowship and service of the Louisville Urban Partnership continues. Personal conversion and advocacy continues. Please connect locally with the work of the Louisville Urban League, Empower West Louisville, Louisville SURJ – (Showing Up for Racial Justice), and the U of L Anne Braden Institute for Social Justice Research.

The Absalom Jones Episcopal Center for Racial Healing and the Union of Black Episcopalians have resources available online. We cannot choose to do nothing.