



June 2, 2020

Dear Louisville Seminary Community,

I am proud of our students. Our faculty. Our staff. Our alums. The many who have protested, marched and stood in solidarity with communities who are traumatized and tired of the endless disregard, deprivation and death. The unheard have spoken and are speaking still. The uprisings of recent days, the rebellion in this moment, the movement that is now did not just happen overnight. It is an unrest born long ago in a racist society, yet still struggles to make its truths self-evident, desirous to be made whole, all too often faltering and falling, not quite knowing how we get there. Events of late are another powder keg, a reigniting of divisive and volatile realities, as old as the nation itself. The urban rebellions of 1968. The uprisings of 1992. Mass protests in 2014. Humanity denied and history ignored repeats itself.

Both on a personal and societal level, our lesser angels do sometimes get the better of us, and we do not treat one another as we expect or even demand to be treated. We are not always at our finest in this reality called the human condition. We have sacrificed our commitments on the altar of comfort and conformity. Governments have allied with the arrogant and powerful, industries have partnered in their profit-making, households of faith have catered to the status quo, and many of us have lived our lives, indifferent to the inequities and inhumanity around us. Redlining in communities of color assumes new segregationist forms. The enforcement and application of law are proven neither equal nor just. Pandemic and epidemic meet in inflammatory fashion. Cynically, there are no racists, yet racism exists everywhere.

Recent events at the historic St. John's Church in our nation's capital are a sobering reminder of our magnificent call to ministry and the terrible price we pay where sacrilege is made. This week, on the other side of Pentecost and the 99th anniversary remembering the worst massacre of Black lives in these United States (Tulsa, Oklahoma), may we remember our inheritance as a Seminary and God's people to love and justice, hope and faith, mercy and grace, courage and commitment, renewal and change. I am so very thankful for this beloved community called LPTS. I am deeply grateful for all of you. In our well-doing, let us be encouraged. Whosoever has need of us. Louisville Seminary has much to offer a waiting and weary world. Faithful, multiracial, intersectional love in action. Holding one another accountable. Let us work together.

In the Presence,
Alton

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