



A COVENANT TO ROOT OUT RACISM

“Those who say, “I love God,” and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen.”

-1 John 4:20 The sin of racism disrupts the harmony and oneness that God intends for humanity. Racism is dangerous, divisive, and damaging. Racism purports that some are deserving of dignity over others and disregards the image and likeness of God found in every human being. We are created in the image of God; therefore, to engage in racism of any form is to refuse to acknowledge the image of God in the other and the stranger. The fact that we were created in the image of God should remind us that each person is a living expression of God that must be respected, preserved, and never dishonored.

Throughout our history, courageous people of God have taken the risk of standing up and speaking out with the least and the lowest. God now challenges us to become courageous people who seek to create sacred communities of hope by dismantling the sin of racism. This work involves risking ourselves for the sake of God's love, moving beyond ourselves in order to seek and serve Christ and one another.

July 2020 | The Rt. Rev. Deon K. Johnson, Bishop of Missouri

WE COVENANT...

As people of faith, we are called to “love the Lord our God with all our heart, and with all our soul and with all our mind and to love our neighbors as ourselves.” Recognizing the places in which the church and people of faith have fallen short of God’s love, particularly in the legacy of racism and white supremacy, we seek to amend our lives to reflect God’s dream of Beloved Community more fully.

We at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church Covenant to:

Stand up and speak out against everyday micro and macro acts of oppression or aggression.

Educate ourselves, and share with others, the many places where our privilege blinds us from being compassionate.

Call out bigotry and hate speech in all aspects of our common life.

Intentionally cultivate welcome, hospitality, and participation for people of all cultures, ethnicities and backgrounds and their offerings in worship.

Invite all members of our faith communities to reflect and seek a better understanding of racism and privilege.

Adopted and Approved by St. Paul's Church Vestry – April 17, 2023