



St. Alban's Episcopal Church
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February 16, 2021

Dear Friends,

Forty-nine clergy of the Diocese of Central New York, including Bishop Duncan-Probe, have co-signed an open letter to the mayors and police chiefs of Auburn, Binghamton, Cortland, Elmira, Ithaca, Syracuse, Utica, and Watertown. The letter condemns police violence against communities of color and urges an ongoing commitment to collaborative police reform.

February 10, 2021

We write to you as clergy and faith leaders of the Episcopal Diocese of Central New York. With over 11,000 members, the Diocese includes people of diverse backgrounds, political affiliations and opinions. We find our unity in our common obedience to Jesus Christ's commandment to love our neighbors. Love for one another is the foundation of our faith: all Episcopalians have vowed, at our baptism, to respect the dignity of every human being and to strive for justice and peace among all people.

Just twelve days ago in the city of Rochester, a nine-year-old girl was brutalized and traumatized by police. This incident is part of a sinful pattern of police violence, particularly against communities of color, that plagues our Upstate New York communities and our nation. People of color witness these events and fear for their safety and for the safety of vulnerable loved ones. Children see this racist violence and fear for their lives and for their futures. As faith leaders and as heartbroken citizens, we say, "No more." United, we are dedicated to the work of building safe communities where love, not fear, prevails.

Therefore, with a renewed sense of purpose, we urge your full commitment to the ongoing process of collaborative and transparent police reform in each jurisdiction, as called for by our Governor. As faith leaders, we commit—across our own differences of opinion and political affiliation—to support you in the essential work of:

- providing officers with adequate and appropriate training in crisis response and nonviolent intervention;
- holding officers and their leaders accountable for violent and racist actions;
- strengthening police and community relationships;
- de-escalating racial and social tensions in our communities with dedicated focus on the work of anti-racism.

We recognize the dedicated police officers and public servants who serve with honor and integrity and who find this situation as distressing as we do. We stand ready to work with you in establishing public safety for all our neighbors, supporting our law enforcement officials, expanding access to mental health services, strengthening our schools, reducing gun violence, and alleviating poverty so that our communities may be healed by care, not cowed by violence.

In Christ,

The Rt. Rev. Dr. DeDe Duncan-Probe, XI Bishop of Central New York
The Rt. Rev. Gladstone B. Adams, III, X Bishop of Central New York
(5 names)
The Rev. Julie Calhoun-Bryant
(41 names)

Lent Book Study Begins February 27

In addition to the Thursday evening class at 6:30 p.m. there will be a book study on Saturday mornings at 10:00 a.m. on Ibram X. Kendi's book, How to be an Antiracist. Eight people have signed up to date. If you need Mother Julie to order the book please let her know. It costs \$15.

Thursday Evenings in Lent on Zoom: February 25 and March

6:00 p.m. Gather on Zoom to share your evening meal as we chat
6:30 p.m. Rector's Class: Matters of Faith
7:15 p.m. Compline

Use your telephone for Zoom on Sunday at 9:30 a.m.

Dial 1-646-558-8656
When prompted Enter **826 9515 6305#**
When prompted Enter **#**
When prompted Enter **446765#**
That will put you in Zoom's waiting room and
I will let you in.

To mute or unmute yourself on the phone press *6

Zoom Calendar

Lent 1

February 21 8:30 a.m. Bible Study: 835 9000 0245 & 562087
9:30 a.m. Worship: 826 9515 6305 & 446765

February 23 10:00 a.m. Morning Prayer: 868 3084 1089 & 114552

February 25 6:30 p.m. Matters of Faith: 852 0786 8086 & 125985

February 27 10:00 a.m. Book Study: 874 1536 7100 & 620058