



Dear friends,

Like all of you, I have been appalled and horrified by what's been unfolding across the past week. First, viral video evidence of wicked and criminal behaviors, the likes of which have gone on for far, far too long against people of color in this country. And, the eruption of violence and mayhem in response.

Like you, my heart has broken again and again – especially for the victims of violence and injustice. With you, I am praying for wisdom, compassion, and words that help to comprehend the moment. Words that help to guide us all into a place where God—where Love—is the power that shapes our response and reigns supreme. I am praying that the Spirit guiding the vast and mostly peaceful protests and vigils will continue to abide, until silenced pleas for justice are heard and honored, and God's will is done.

Here are the words that come to me:

*"He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to **do justice** , and to **love kindness** , and to **walk humbly** with your God?" (Micah 6:8)*

"Teacher, ' [a man asked], which commandment in the law is the greatest?' Jesus said to [him], 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. The second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the law and the prophets depend on these two commandments." (Matthew 22:36-40)

In response to those who are fanning the flames of hate, distrust and division, may the power we trust and demonstrate be **Love**.

Striving to serve and witness with faith, hope, and love,

Tanya