

One week ago, our nation's Capitol Building was attacked by a violent mob, the true horrors of which are still being revealed. The Christian symbols weaponized by white nationalists in our Capitol are the markers of a long history of white supremacy and racism in America. We reject this narrative that has been active in our country for hundreds of years. White Christian nationalism is not, in any sense, the way of Jesus.

Jesus teaches us that His kingdom is "not of this world." He says, "If anyone wants to become the greatest they must become the least" and if we choose to follow Him we will "take up our cross daily." This is the way of the cross, the way of sacrificial love. It was absent in the mob that attempted to appropriate His name.

We lament that men and women portrayed a violent version of Christianity that is not congruent with the teachings of Jesus. We lament that the violence at the Capitol further divides our country and the Church. We lament that so many people who claim to follow Christ have instead put their trust in human leaders for their salvation. We lament over how these actions continue to create fear in the daily lives of people of color. And we lament where people in the Church have traded the way of the cross for the way of power.

We also repent. The Apostle John reminds us, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and he will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." We acknowledge that, as a faith community, we have failed to equip followers of Jesus for this moment. We repent for any silence, inaction, and passivity on our part that has contributed to this behavior from those who call themselves Christian.

Common Ground Midtown has always desired to be a church that welcomes people with different beliefs and backgrounds to join together under the common name of Jesus and to grow in our knowledge of God's will, making Christ's sacrificial love known to others. One of the values that we are striving toward as a church is justice. In America, we recognize that our sisters and brothers of color live in a world that is too often devoid of justice. As followers of Christ, we are called to pursue justice and advocate for those marginalized in our society (Isaiah 9:7; Psalm 50:6; Proverbs 21:15; Micah 6:8; Luke 4:18-19; Luke 11:42).

We long to see people reconciled to God and to one another and we will continue to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus as the way to that peace.

The Elders of Common Ground Christian Church - Midtown