

Black Lives Matter
Rev. Kim's Chalice Lighting ~ September 25, 2016

As we gather today, I want to invoke the names of Terence Crutcher and Keith Lamont Scott, who were shot and killed by police officers in Tulsa and Charlotte this past week. These murders are

Shattering. Indefensible. Unbearable. Intolerable. Familiar.

Congressman John Lewis is calling for a “deliberative, systematic discussion” about the racial divide that’s fueling this deadly conflict between police and black men. We need to step into the middle, away from the polarized ends, and talk about how all of us can work to fix what is so obviously broken for our brothers, our friends, our kindred citizens, our country.

I’m grateful to Awesomely Ajaye who reminds those of us who are white that we are being called to listen, to amplify the voices of people of color, to give generously to anti-racism causes, to vote for anti-racist candidates and demand accountability from those who represent us, to bear witness, to protest, and to be co-conspirators in this life-and-death struggle.

In War and Peace, Tolstoy said,

I say let us join hands
 with those who love goodness.
 And let there be one banner:
 real goodness.

I want only to say
 that it is always the simplest ideas
 [that] lead to the greatest consequences.

My idea, in its entirety,
 is that if vile people *unite*
 and constitute a force,
 then decent people
 are obliged to do likewise:
 just that.

Amen.