

April 21, 2021

Dear Colleagues,

All of us have breathed a collective sigh of relief that justice was achieved yesterday at the trial of Derek Chauvin. The trial weighed heavily on all who care about justice and human dignity, but especially on Black Americans and members of other underrepresented groups who have been the victims of too many crimes that have either never been brought to court or have been dismissed from courts. The justice system was on trial as well as a particular individual.

But I recognize it is one trial among many. The work that lies before us is immense, as we are reminded when we witness a police officer's fatal shooting of Daunte Wright barely over a week ago, just miles from the site where George Floyd was murdered, and yesterday's fatal shooting of Ma'Khia Bryant, which, while still under investigation, conjures the all-too-familiar pattern of Black people dying at the hands of police. I hope that we can build on yesterday's verdict, but I recognize it is a single event.

You are undoubtedly exhausted by all that has happened in the past week as well as by a long and difficult year. But I want to let you know of some opportunities that might be of importance to you. First, we will have a special service in Marquand Chapel next Monday. It will be a service of HOLY REST in response to the struggle that many have experienced over the trial and the continued police shootings. I am very grateful to Khaleelah Harris '21 M.Div. for her work on this service. As with other Marquand services, it will take place at 11:30 a.m. on Zoom. (If you need the Zoom instructions, please contact Chapel Director [Emilie Casey](#).)

Second, we along with all other Yale schools are co-sponsoring a series of three panels at the Law School on Thursday evening and Friday. You are all welcome to attend, though you will need to register. This is part of the Yale Law School Teach-in Series. Details are available on the [Belonging at Yale website](#), where all other University events related to the Chauvin trial will be posted.

If you need to talk to someone, please reach out to Associate Dean [Lynn Sullivan](#) or

access the helpful resources at [Belonging at Yale](#).

Each of us is accountable for working toward justice and equity. We cannot make the progress we need without a collective effort.

Best wishes,

Greg Sterling

Gregory E. Sterling
The Reverend Henry L. Slack Dean
Lillian Claus Professor of New Testament
Yale Divinity School