



**A Statement from ANCC Presiding Bishop George R. Lucey, FCM  
on the Derek Chauvin Verdict**

21 April 2021

I join all people of good will in offering thanks that justice has been done for George Floyd. The conviction of his murderer cannot ease the pain of Mr. Floyd's family, nor does it heal the terrible sin of racism that afflicts this nation. But it does offer hope that the arc of our hearts is beginning to bend toward a frank and contrite acknowledgment that we've too long tolerated, and hence perpetuated, racial oppression.

Centuries ago, the prophet Amos likewise recognized his own nation's guilt:

*There are those who turn justice into bitterness  
and cast righteousness to the ground. (5:7)*

*There are those who hate the one who upholds justice in court  
and detest the one who tells the truth. (5:10)*

He insisted that empty words of regret for the victims of injustice weren't enough. What was required was sincere repentance followed by concrete reform which would

*let justice roll on like a river,  
righteousness like a never-failing stream! (5:24)*

My prayer is that the Derek Chauvin verdict encourages us to take the words of the prophet to heart.

May all of us who worship the One who came to bring peace on earth increasingly acknowledge the truth that the individual and corporate sin of racism is real and respond with repentant compassion to all who are victims of it.

May we increasingly pray and labor for that never-failing stream of righteousness which can move our hearts and our social structures into conformity with the life and teachings of Christ.

Amen!

Most Rev. George R. Lucey, FCM  
Presiding Bishop