Charlottesville Response
August 13, 2017
Butler Church

This morning, and each time we gather for a combined service we say how good it is to meet together, four congregations, one church; many cultures, ethnicities, languages… one Faith, one Lord, one Savior. It is good, it is the will of the Lord that we come together…this unity is beautiful.

Yesterday, in Charlottesville, Virginia, a group of white supremacists, brought a hateful and racist message to that city, and to our nation. That racism, which would seek to lift one race above and over another, is hateful, spiteful, and sinful. It is ugly.

Racism is a sin which invades our past, and our present. We have made strides as a nation, but the work is far from done. Racism continues to divide us in ways both blatant and subtle.

We the church, Butler Church, have an opportunity to rebuke that sin of hate and racism. In our words and deeds…in our worship. We have opportunity today to live into our calling as found in Galatians 3:26–28 (NLT)

26 For you are all children of God through faith in Christ Jesus. 27 And all who have been united with Christ in baptism have put on Christ, like putting on new clothes. 28 There is no longer Jew or Gentile, slave or free, male and female. For you are all one in Christ Jesus.

May our worship this morning be a declaration of love in the face of hate. A declaration of unity in the face of division. May we be drawn into Christ…Unified but not Uniform…gloriously diverse yet wonderfully bound together. Beauty in the face of the ugliness of racism.

Our world needs this. Our Nation, our city, our community…needs the church, needs us, needs Jesus. May we heed the call. May we speak truth in love.

I invite you all to stand with me, to hold hands together, so that we might enter into worship united in prayer.