

Dear residents of North Wales and beyond,

Not very often people are stirred to action in this little town of ours. Most of us love North Wales so much precisely because it is a quiet and neighborly place, sleepy and quaint. It is a place where you can know your neighbor and live in peace, where you can walk your dog, where you can breathe.

But there are times when we are stirred into action, when we are called upon by a higher power to uphold core values which have been violated again and again. There are times when birthright American principles need re-enforcement not from law enforcement but from the most powerful constituency in any democracy: we the people! We the people need to show that we believe in basic human rights and equality. We the citizens need to demonstrate that we are better than our record of 250 long years shows, as we have fallen woefully short of realizing the idea that all people are created equal. The brutal and shocking death of Mr. Floyd has brought to our attention that the sin of racism is far from defeated in our country, as if we needed that reminder. In fact, it is alive across the world. Yet every little town and every little community that stands up for human dignity and the idea that all of us are created in the image of God and that we are brothers and sisters, every such town and community will be blessed. I believe that.

Most of you will agree with me that we have been divided far too much in this country and we need to take advantage of every opportunity to unify behind our common values, and do it across age, gender, politics and racial lines. In this case the opportunity, sadly and tragically, came at the bloody expense of a human being, another unarmed black person whose life was needlessly, carelessly, brutally ended. And while it happened in far-away Minnesota, we know that it has happened in many other places and many communities. The question whether it could have happened here in our quiet little town is one we should never be afraid to ask ourselves.

And so we are coming together, united in a show of solidarity with all those who are mistreated, with our brothers and sisters in minority communities who are often unjustly targeted and profiled. We are coming together knowing that the work of our police officers is often very difficult and if you ask me, I would not want to be in their shoes, and we shouldn't judge all by the acts of a few. We come together united against situational and systematic racism.

The church where I serve, St. Peter's down the street, was founded in 1776, the year when this country was born. As a legal alien in the US, I have always marveled at the audacity of the founding fathers to formulate ideals which the country had not grown into yet. It is my prayer and my hope that we grow up as a human family, grow into the oldest Americans ideals, grow up to defeat racism one community at a time. It is my prayer and my hope that Mr. Floyd's life was not ended in vain but helps us all to fight the good fight for our country and for every single neighbor.

And now, let us please take more than a moment, but let us exercise silent outrage for the entire eight minute and 46 seconds that Mr. George Floyd suffered. I ask you to kneel for this time in respect for his life if you can.

Opening - Kate

- Jim Sando
- Amy Chermela - shares Sally's statement
- Mayor Greg D'Angelo
- Dan Jacques
- Pastor Wagner
- Action - take a knee/stand for 8 minutes, 46 seconds
- Closing - Steve