

Stations of the Cross
Memorial Episcopal Church
Bolton Hill
Good Friday 2021

Bolton Hill is one of Baltimore's most historic and well-preserved neighborhoods. Today it is also one of its most diverse, with an almost 50/50 make-up split of black and white residents, as well as a tremendous amount of economic diversity - with low, moderate and luxury housing options in a four by five block area. It also has at least a hundred year legacy of segregation and racism dating back to its founding as a 'summer respite' from city living and a sanctuary for fleeing southern landowners after the Civil War. As the first Church in the Neighborhood, Memorial's legacy is closely tied to the neighborhood - with 7 of the first 8 Rectors having served in the Confederacy, and remaining a segregated congregation until the late 1960s.

While we all celebrate both our Parish and our Neighborhoods focus on diversity, social justice and inclusion - very few of us are aware of the breadth and depth of this history. Join us as we begin to explore this painful part of our past.

FIRST STATION

JESUS IS CONDEMNED TO DEATH MEMORIAL EPISCOPAL BELL TOWER

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you:
Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth. By a perversion of justice, he was taken away, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth.

Jesus was condemned unjustly by those who did not understand him and by those who were frightened of what he did and said. Perhaps they sensed that this man could make a difference, that he could turn their world upside down.

Memorial Episcopal Church was founded in 1860. It is a Memorial to The Rev. Henry Johns and Charles Ridgely Howard, both slave owners and southern sympathizers. The Parish actively practiced segregation well into the 1960's. People are condemned because of the color of their skin, their gender, their beliefs, because they are born with a disability, because they don't conform to our way of thinking, the list is endless.



Let us pray.

Lord Jesus, though you were condemned to suffer and die, all judgment has been placed in your hand. Grant that we may be saved from all false judgments against our neighbor, and at the last may stand before you, forgiven by your great mercy, for the sake of your love. *Amen.*

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One.
Have mercy upon us.

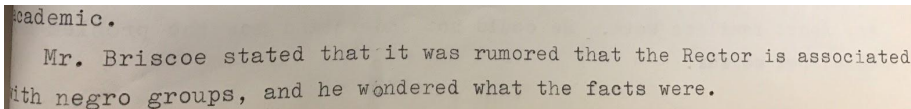
SECOND STATION

JESUS TAKES UP HIS CROSS – MEMORIAL CHURCH RECTORY

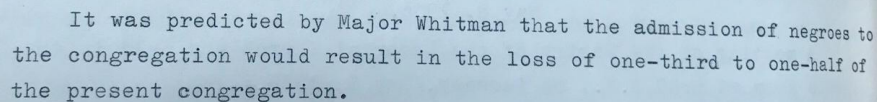
We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you:
Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

The soldiers began saluting him, "Hail, King of the Jews!" They struck his head with a reed, spat upon him, and knelt down in homage to him. After mocking him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.

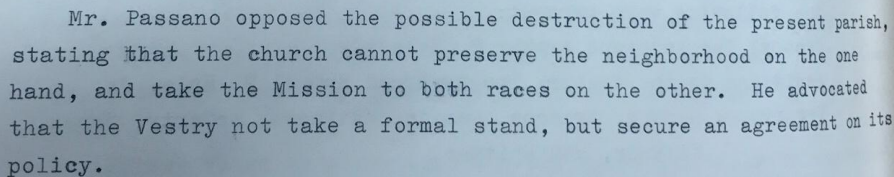
Because of fear and hatred Jesus was condemned and mocked. Because of fear and hatred the Rev. Arthur Kelsey was forced out of Memorial when he sought to integrate the Parish in 1956. Despite both national and diocesan guidelines encouraging integration, and a significant financial grant to support reaching out to the Black community in Baltimore, the parish chose to attack and embarrass their rector and continue working to keep both the parish and the neighborhood segregated. Let us pray.



academic.
Mr. Briscoe stated that it was rumored that the Rector is associated with negro groups, and he wondered what the facts were.



It was predicted by Major Whitman that the admission of negroes to the congregation would result in the loss of one-third to one-half of the present congregation.



Mr. Passano opposed the possible destruction of the present parish, stating that the church cannot preserve the neighborhood on the one hand, and take the Mission to both races on the other. He advocated that the Vestry not take a formal stand, but secure an agreement on its policy.

Grant us patience, O Lord, to follow the road you have taken. Let our confidence not rest in our own understanding but in your guiding hand; let our desires not be for our own comfort, but for the joy of your kingdom; for your cross is our hope and our joy now and unto the day of eternity. *Amen.*

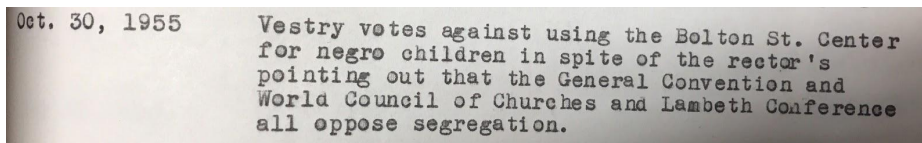
Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One.
Have mercy upon us.

**THIRD STATION JESUS FALLS THE FIRST TIME
THE BOLTON STREET RECREATION CENTER**

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you:
Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit."

In 1955 Memorial withdrew its support for the integration of the Bolton Street Recreation Center because of fear and racism. Jesus turned the cross from a symbol of condemnation to a symbol of liberation. Can we through acknowledgement of our collective sins begin to 'balance the equation' with our neighbors, see ourselves through their eyes, and come to reconciliation and liberty for all of us?



Oct. 30, 1955 Vestry votes against using the Bolton St. Center for negro children in spite of the rector's pointing out that the General Convention and World Council of Churches and Lambeth Conference all oppose segregation.

Let us pray.

O God, you know us to be set in the midst of so many and great dangers, that by reason of the frailty of our nature we have not always stood upright: Grant us such strength and protection to tell the truth about our past and to embrace a new future. Support us in all challenges that may arise, and carry us through all temptations; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One.
Have mercy upon us.

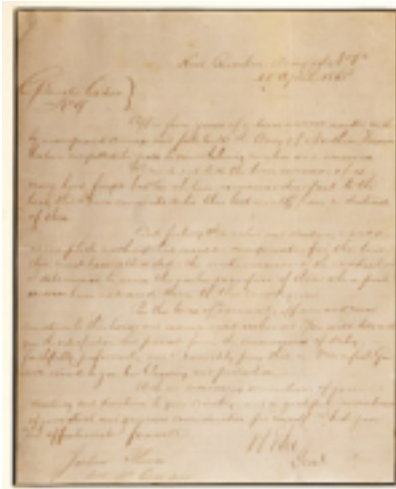
FOURTH STATION

JESUS MEETS HIS AFFLICTED MOTHER COLONEL CHARLES MARSHALL -- LANVALE HOUSE

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you:
Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Is it nothing to you, all you who pass by? Look and see if there is any sorrow like my sorrow: For these things I weep; my eyes flow with tears; for a comforter is far from me, one to revive my courage: My eyes are spent with weeping; my stomach churns, my heart is wrung within me; my children are desolate, for the enemy has prevailed.

Colonel Marshall was Robert E. Lee's Aide De Camp, and the author of both the terms of surrender and 'General Order #9' - Lee's final instructions to the Confederate Army. An eloquent man of letters, Marshall typifies the reputation of Bolton Hill at the Turn of the Century. Eloquent, intelligent southern sympathizers who fully embraced the 'lose cause' of the South and had no qualms about advocating for segregation, Jim Crow and the superiority of the White Race.



Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, whose Blessed Mother watched your passion and death in deep sorrow, comfort, we pray you, all those who must stand helpless while those they love suffer. Hear the cry of all victims of terror and abuse, give hope and solace to those who are bereaved. Grant that we may use such strength as we have to comfort, support, and protect all who grieve or are in need, for your tender mercies' sake. *Amen.*

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One.

Have mercy upon us

FIFTH STATION

THE CROSS IS LAID ON SIMON OF CYRENE

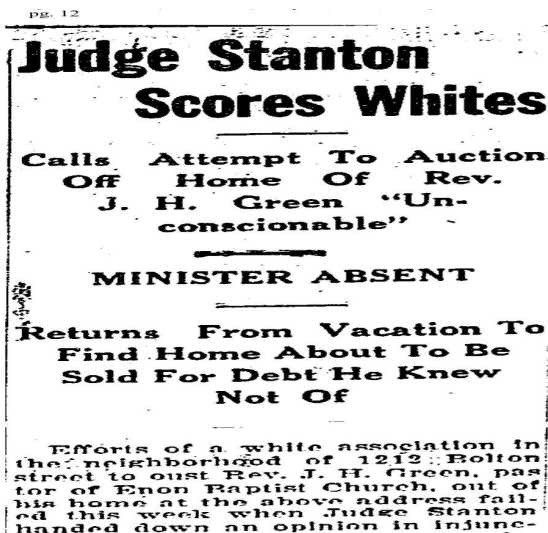
1212 Bolton St -- The Rev. J.H. Green

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you:

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

The soldiers led him out to crucify him. They compelled a passerby, who was coming in from the country, to carry his cross; it was Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus.

In 1920, the Pastor Of Enon Baptist Church attempted to Purchase this home at 1212 Bolton Street. Shortly after purchasing the home, his neighbors conspired to have him evicted for non-payment of taxes (which had been paid) and put his house on the market while he was away on vacation. This was the fourth attempt to integrate Bolton Street and certainly the most egregious. We often lay crosses down on others for our own sins. Do we continue to perpetuate this today?



Let us pray.

O Lord Christ, by whose condemnation we are acquitted, in whose death we have life, and whose cross is our hope, keep us mindful of your boundless love and when we are called, like Simon, to bear the cross, make us to rejoice that we are counted worthy to suffer for your sake and unite what we offer with your perfect sacrifice, through the merits of your eternal redemption. *Amen.*

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One.

Have mercy upon us.

SIXTH STATION

A WOMAN WIPES THE FACE OF JESUS THE REV. WILLIAM MEADE DAME

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you:
Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them; those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. Jesus also suffered outside the city gate in order to sanctify the people by his own blood. Let us then go to him outside the camp and bear the abuse he endured. For here we have no lasting city, but we are looking for the city that is to come.

When we speak of Memorial's history The Rev. William Meade Dame is always mentioned. He was called the Bishop of Bolton Street and beloved by many in the neighborhood. He also was a rabid segregationist and openly advocated for blacks to lose the right to vote and to equal housing. He served in the confederate Army and was known to wear his 'Grays' up and down Bolton Street until his death in 1919. Today we are the visible face of Christ in Bolton Hill. Can we make that image one we can consider a reward?

at ce d- ns he ad of he er- er at he ae 's, to d-	Rev. Dr. Dame Advocates Amend- ment On That Ground. Rev. Dr. William M. Dame, rector of Memorial Protestant Episcopal Church, Lafayette avenue and Bolton street, and chaplain of the Fifth Regiment, in giving his views in favor of the proposed suffrage amendment, said:- "The removal of the illiterate negro from politics would immediately tend to elevate and purify them. It would put an end to the traffic in the negro vote. The party which has been staking on this vote for so long a time in Maryland would have to fight its battle on the battle field of politics by securing the best possible men available for candidates for office. "On the other hand, there are a great	I (th an ob an wr fir has of cot wh vot ' dit cot cot ' wr nev
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Let us pray.

Lord, teach us to see your face and to find its imprint in all acts of mercy and compassion, and in all for whom you died; by your Holy Spirit, change us, and conform us to your own image, that through our lives, your light may shine in this dark world, for the glory of your name. *Amen.*

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One.
Have mercy upon us.

SEVENTH STATION

JESUS FALLS A SECOND TIME
PARISH HALL MINSTREL SHOW

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you:
Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. We proclaim Christ crucified, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

The belief that Blacks were racially and socially inferior was fostered by legions of white and performers in blackface. Minstrel show entertainment included imitating black music and dance and speaking in a "plantation" dialect. From 1840 to 1890, minstrel shows were the most popular form of entertainment in America. Memorial Records show an Active Minstrel troop for at least 30 years. It is no surprise that a racist congregation would include them as a church social event. Certainly, our church "did

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MINSTRELS BY AMATEURS

Amuse Large Audience At Memorial Church Parish House.

"Standing room only" was to be had by late arrivals last night at the minstrel show given by the young men of the chapter of St. Andrew's Brotherhood attached to Memorial Protestant Episcopal Church. The show took place in the parish house adjoining the church and was complete in every detail, even to the cakewalk.

The first "act" was the real old minstrel troupe, corked as to faces and attired in white duck trousers and black Tuxedo coat, with immense red, green and orange ties

Let us pray.

Lord, we fall again and again: seek us out and recall us to yourself; in your strength let us stand and in our paths let us walk secure, for your passion and death are our forgiveness, our salvation and our life. *Amen.*

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One.
Have mercy upon us.

EIGHTH STATION

JESUS MEETS THE WOMEN OF JERUSALEM
BOLTON HILL'S CONFEDERATE WOMEN'S MONUMENT

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you:
Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

A great number of the people followed him, and among them were women who were beating their breasts and wailing for him. But Jesus turned to them and said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. For the days are surely coming when they will say, 'Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bore, and the breasts that never nursed.' Then they will begin to say to the mountains, 'Fall on us'; and to the hills, 'Cover us.' For if they do this when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?"

From the April 24th, 1903 Baltimore Sun Article about the unveiling of the Confederate Women's Monument: "Mrs. D. Giraud Wright (1632 Park Ave) President of the Maryland Daughters announced at social meeting of the Baltimore Chapter...The Strains of Dixie will mark the formal opening of the program, and following this the invocation by the Rev. William M. Dame, Chaplain of the Maryland Daughters of the Confederacy."



Let us pray.

Lord, grant us to repent of all cruelty and disregard of which we are guilty of in our own lives and in our common lives as parishioners and residents in this neighborhood. Lord, be our confidence that looking past our past hatred and indifferences we may stand together in order to accomplish your loving purposes, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One.
Have mercy upon us

TENTH STATION
JESUS IS STRIPPED OF HIS GARMENTS
THE MOUNT ROYAL PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you:

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death— even death on a cross.

**Believe Residents Have
 Agreed Not to Sell to
 Colored.**

**TO EXTEND AREA
 Blocks Have Captains
 and Lieutenants.**

Practically the whole Mt. Royal avenue area has entered into agreements permanently binding property owners, so that properties cannot be sold to colored people.

This is the statement of the Mt. Royal Improvement Association in a letter sent out to persons living in adjoining neighborhoods urging them to pay two dollars, join the association and take part in the "worth while project" of keeping Negroes out. The 100 per cent white area claimed by the association is bounded by Mt. Royal avenue on the East, Eutaw place on the West, Dolphin street on the South and Lafayette avenue on the North.

The association says it has grown from 75 per cent to 100 per cent effective since 1919.

946 Sign

According to the association's letter, the properties in the whole territory that have signed for, have been increased from 448 to 946.

In the early 1900's fear of a 'negro invasion' gripped white neighborhoods in Baltimore, none more so than the Mount Royal District. To protect itself, members of Memorial founded the Mount Royal Protection Association in Memorial's parish hall, recruiting almost 1,000 households to sign restrictive covenant agreements in the neighborhood.

Let us pray.

Lord Jesus, you stood before all the world, with no one beside you and nothing to protect you, exposed to ridicule and grievously wounded: Forgive us for the suffering we have caused, strip from us all false pride, and for your sake, who suffered such cruelty, make us abhor all injustice and violence. *Amen.*

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One.

Have mercy upon us.

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ELEVENTH STATION
JESUS IS NAILED TO THE CROSS
MARBURY AND MCMECHEN

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you:

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing." One of the criminals who was hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

In 1910 George McMechen, one of the first Black Lawyers in Baltimore, purchased a home on McCullough Street. He was the first Black man to move onto McCullough, something that was viciously opposed by William Marbury, a prominent Baltimore Lawyer, Vestry Member of Memorial and a Bolton Hill Resident - living at the corner of Park and Lanvale. This opposition led to the drafting of a housing segregation ordinance, the first in the country - declaring that white blocks must stay white, and black blocks must stay black.



Let us pray.

Bring us to stand close enough to your cross, O Lord, that we hear your voice, and in your promise of forgiveness and welcome, let us rest our hope for this life and for the life to come. *Amen.*

*May his wounds both wound and heal me,
he enkindle, cleanse, and heal me,
be his cross my hope and stay.*

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One.

Have mercy upon us.

TWELFTH STATION
JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS
MEMORIAL APARTMENTS

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you:

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

And about three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "This man is calling for Elijah." At once one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink. But the others said, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him." Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last. At that moment the curtain of the Temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split.

Memorial Apartments (now Linden Park Apartments) was the first public building in the Neighborhood that was not restricted either legally or economically by race. It was, from the beginning, a fixed income senior housing facility for people of all races and creeds - so that everyone who lived in the immediate vicinity would be able to stay close to home even after they could no longer keep up with a four story house on park avenue or a third floor walk up on Bolton St. It is in many ways the death of Segregation in Bolton Hill. Just as in Christ's death we are given life, so in the putting to death our addiction to racism and segregation - our neighborhood has been given new life.

MS MS On 1 :KSA 01 buy plus been re of blers or a s at we in gnize to be	New Bolton Hill Apartment Finding Favor With Elderly	la or et c a c ti d is la fi h c c ir m m a c c
"Every time I walk around here I feel ten years younger," a gray-haired woman said yesterday while admiring a new apartment home for the elderly in Bolton Hill.	Besides providing a low-income home for the aged, the 12-story building marks an effort by the nearby Memorial Episcopal Church to prevent deterioration of the neighborhood.	going to be cleared for urban renewal.
Tenants will have air-conditioning, special bathroom guard rails, and other facilities.	In addition there will be card parties, lectures and even a doctor in the house. The building is	Under a section of the National Housing Act, the Federal Government granted a loan of 900 per cent of the building's cost. The loan was made to the nonprofit organization created by the church.
The apartment home is one of a	Mr. Casper said that about 35 per cent of the apartments already have been taken. Only a small number of these future tenants however, are members of his church. The apartments are not restricted to members of any creed or race.	The apartment home is one of a

By your death, O Lord, we are given life; grant that we may receive this great gift with awe and humility, and let our lives be no longer our own, but yours, now and to the day of eternity. *Amen.*

*May he, when the mountains quiver,
 from that flame which burns for ever
 shield me on the judgment day.*

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One.
Have mercy upon us.

THIRTEENTH STATION
THE BODY OF JESUS IS PLACED IN THE ARMS OF HIS
MOTHER THE BAPTISMAL FONT

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you:

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Many women were also there, looking on from a distance; they had followed Jesus from Galilee and had provided for him. Among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of the sons of Zebedee. What can I say for you, to what compare you, O daughter Jerusalem? To what can I liken you, that I may comfort you, O virgin daughter Zion? For vast as the sea is your ruin; who can heal you?

In 1969 Memorial called a new rector, the Rev. F. Lyman 'Barney' Farnham. On his first service in the Church he invited to preside with him at the altar The Rev. Forrest Smith, pastor of Sharpe Street Methodist Church - the oldest black congregation in the city. Shortly thereafter he welcomed the first black members of the congregation - setting out quickly to right historic wrongs and to offer hope and resurrection to all. Just as Christ was returned to his mother, so we can all be returned to right relationship with God our Mother if we can put aside our own needs and seek first God's will.

**Installation Set
For Minister**

The Rev. Lyman Farnham will be installed as rector of the Memorial Episcopal Church at Bolton Street and Lafayette Avenue next Thursday at 8 P.M., with the Rt. Rev. Harry Lee Doll, Episcopal Bishop of Maryland, officiating at the special evensong service and preaching the sermon.

Clergymen from various denominations will take part. Father Farnham assumed his duties at the church on February 1.

The Rev. Alan H. Gee, rector of St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church, will participate in the service, and the psalms will be ready by the Rev. Clinton C. Glenn, associate minister of the neighboring Brown Memorial Presbyterian Church. The Rev. Forrest Smith, of Sharpe Street Memorial United Methodist Church and the Rev. A. Hugh Dickinson, of Christ Episcopal

Let us pray.

For the sake of your Blessed Mother, who was stricken with grief: be comfort and strength, Gracious Lord, to all who are seeking to be restored; be light and hope to us and, by your own merits and through the prayers of all the saints, bring us all through life's sorrows to the unending joy of your heavenly kingdom. *Amen.*

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One.

Have mercy upon us.

FOURTEENTH STATION
JESUS IS LAID IN THE TOMB
“Tribute”

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you:

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

My soul is full of troubles, and my life draws near to Sheol. I am counted among those who go down to the Pit; I am like those who have no help, like those forsaken among the dead, like the slain that lie in the grave. You have caused friend and neighbor to shun me, and my companions are in darkness.



In 2020, Memorial Episcopal Church commissioned this work of art to honor the families enslaved by the founding Rector of this parish, including Hattie Cromwell and her family, center, the ancestor of our present deacon the Rev. Natalie Conway.

I invited you now to pause and contemplate your own experience with race and racism - here in Baltimore and throughout your life. Have you benefited from the white protectionism that has surrounded Bolton Hill? How have you, intentionally or unintentionally, continued the practices of racism that defined this neighborhood for so long? How can we as a neighborhood and as a parish atone for the past sins of racism and work to undo the systemic inequality that persists to this day?

When we speak about reparations at Memorial we speak about repairing the breach. We seek to heal relationships, develop trust, heal rifts between communities and neighborhoods, and atone for the sins of the past. Where is their brokenness in your life? Where is there a rift that needs healing?

Let us pray. Lord Christ, as your body was laid in a tomb, you descended into hell, to break its ancient doors and free those held in its grasp; give to us, and all the faithful departed release from sin and the torment of separation from you, for you are mighty to save, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One.
Have mercy upon us.