

Our Prophetic Calling

We are called by God to shine light on evil deeds perpetrated against oppressed peoples of every color in this country and around the world. For answering the call, we have been lynched, murdered, threatened, unjustly investigated by the federal government and under appreciated by our own communities. Still, we must never be deterred from heeding God's call:

Cry out, do not hold back!

Raise your voice like a trumpet! (Isaiah 58.1)

The prophetic tradition of the Christian Church is grounded in the earnest desire of a people to emerge from the tyranny of injustice and poverty. It is an *holy* desire rooted in sheer human dignity and the divine right breathed into us by our God at creation. Echoing in our hearts is the command:

Cry out, do not hold back!

Raise your voice like a trumpet!

The ills and –isms in this world threaten not only the quality but life itself for far too many oppressed people living under injustice and myriad forms of abuse. It is because of them that we must passionately obey:

Cry out, do not hold back!

Raise your voice like a trumpet!

Because of foreclosures, the exponential growth of the prison industrial complex, and gangs growing faster than many churches

Cry out, do not hold back!

Raise your voice like a trumpet!

Because this church was born in a community of sun-kissed children of God whose indomitable spirit demanded a house of worship in which the Word of God would not come mediated through racist and exclusivist and oppressive matrices of interpretation.

Cry out, do not hold back!

Raise your voice like a trumpet!

Because this Church was conceived in the collective mind of a disciplined people who were faithful practitioners of the disciplines of the spirit, those who learned and practiced wilderness-discipline.

Cry out, do not hold back!

Raise your voice like a trumpet!

Because the legacies of Bishop Richard Allen, the Reverend Archibald Carey, Jr., and the Reverend Oliver Brown compel us

Cry out, do not hold back!

Raise your voice like a trumpet!

Because personal wealth and material gain is not the aim of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Cry out, do not hold back!

Raise your voice like a trumpet!

Because there is no escaping this truth: Jesus cares about the poor, the imprisoned, the outcast, the sick, the orphan, the widow, the ugly and the afflicted.

Cry out, do not hold back!

Raise your voice like a trumpet!

Because the power of God in us gives power to the words we utter

Cry out, do not hold back!

Raise your voice like a trumpet!

Because life and death are in the power of our own tongues

Cry out, do not hold back!

Raise your voice like a trumpet!

Because God commands it and our lives depend on it

Cry out, do not hold back!

Raise your voice like a trumpet! Amen! It is so!

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