

THE *Episcopal* CHURCH



DECEMBER 14, 2014 – THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

TALKING ABOUT FERGUSON IN OUR CONGREGATIONS

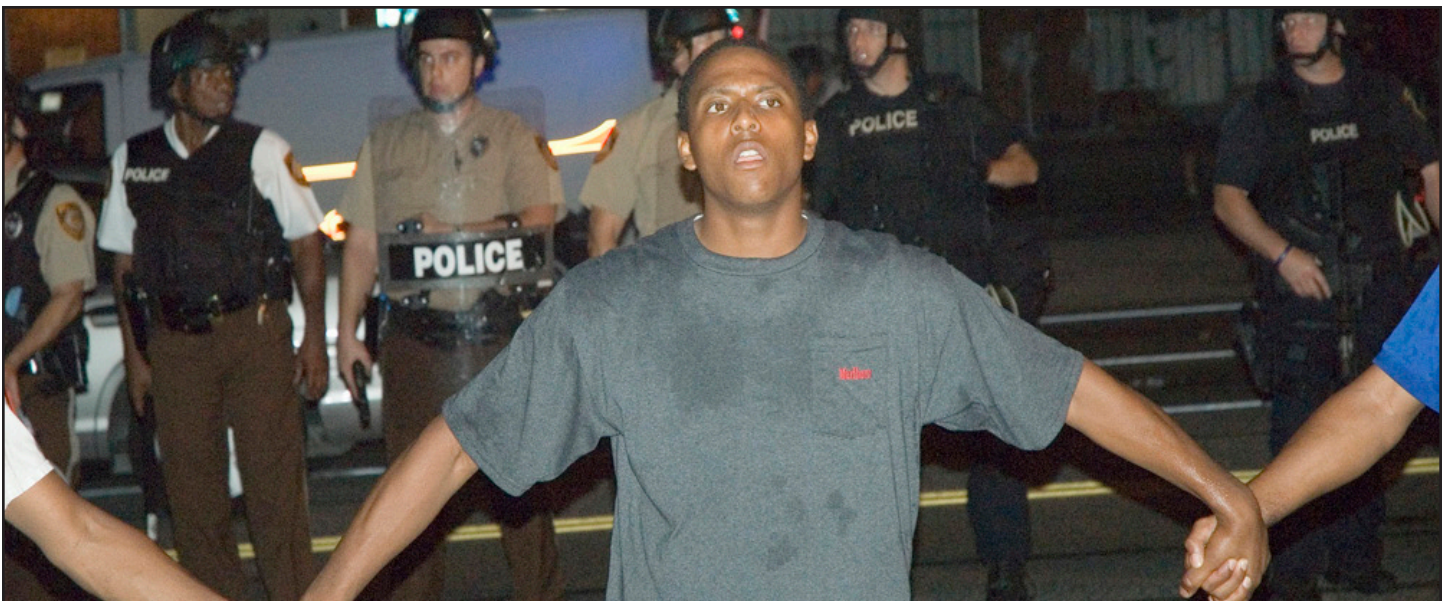
The Episcopal Church website now offers a series of resources to facilitate discussion, reflection and prayer following the grand jury decision in Ferguson, Mo.: <http://www.episcopalchurch.org/page/talking-about-ferguson-our-congregations>.

“The Episcopal Church joins many others in deep lament over the tragic reality that continues to be revealed in Ferguson, Missouri,” said Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori in a statement issued November 25. She continued, “The racism in this nation is part of our foundation, and is not unique to one city or state or part of the country. All Americans live with the consequences of centuries of slavery, exploitation, and prejudice.” Read the Presiding Bishop’s statement in full at <http://www.episcopalchurch.org/notice/presiding-bishops-statement-way-forward-ferguson>.

Resources include conversation starters for elementary-school children, youth and adults; Advent lectionary readings from Isaiah and Mark; “A Way Forward: Reflections, Resources & Stories Concerning Ferguson, Racial Justice & Reconciliation” by the Office of Government Relations; a statement from Bishop Wayne Smith of the Diocese of Missouri; practices for racial reconciliation; and blogs for sharing stories and reflections.

Among Episcopalians offering reflections online are Annette Buchanan, national president for the Union of Black Episcopalians (UBE); Dr. Anita Parrott George, Executive Council member and vice chair of the Advisory Board of the William Winter Institute for Racial Reconciliation, University of Mississippi; and the Very Rev. Mike Kinman, dean of Christ Church Cathedral in downtown St. Louis. To read these and other reflections, please visit <http://advocacy.episcopalchurch.org/episcopal/voices>.

“The decision in Ferguson has reached into the hearts of every American,” noted the Episcopal Church’s Chief Operating Officer Bishop Stacy Sauls to Episcopal News Service on November 26. “The Episcopal Church is providing a series of resources and reflections to help us consider our response and our way forward.”



Protester in Ferguson, Mo., August 19 (CC photo by People's World)