

Special Message from the Orthodox Jewish Congregations in Englewood:

To our dear neighbors and friends participating in this Rally, though we cannot be here with you in person we are here with you in spirit. As Orthodox Jews, we are precluded from participating in this important event coinciding with our Sabbath observance.

The Sabbath is a sacred time at the conclusion of the week which affords us the opportunity to pause and reflect on our values. Please know that we are rededicating ourselves at this time to considering the plight of those who are still fighting for justice and equality in our country. We mourn with you the tragic killing of George Floyd among all victims of racism.

Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, who stood with the Reverend Martin Luther King Jr., observed that "racism is man's gravest threat to man, the maximum of hatred for a minimum of reason." Moreover, we find in the book of Genesis that all people are fashioned in the image of God. Therefore, hatred and abuse of any person simply for how they were created - is a desecration of God's image.

The weekly portion of the Torah read in synagogues throughout the country today contains the priestly blessings, which we invoke in offering you our blessings: May God bless you and protect you. May God deal kindly and graciously with you. May God bestow His favor upon you and grant you peace.

In friendship and solidarity,

Rabbi Akiva Block, *Kehilat Keshet*

Rabbi Menachem Genack, *Congregation Shomrei Emunah*

Rabbi Chaim Poupko, *Congregation Ahavath Torah*

Rabbi Zev Reichman, *East Hill Synagogue*