

Prayer for the opening of the Piscataway Township Council meeting  
June 4, 2020

Rev. Dr. Eric R. Billips, Sr.  
North Stelton AME Church

“Oh God, creator and sustainer of all that is. We pause to seek your comfort, your guidance and your strength in this season of global pandemic and national uprising.

“We are living in the midst of a pandemic that has claimed the lives of nearly 390,000 persons globally and 117,000 persons nationally. Many have lost their sources of income. We are socially separated. Congregations cannot gather. And many remain in hospitals and in ICU wards on ventilators struggling to breath.

“On the other hand, throughout this nation, thousands and tens of thousands are gathering in protest as the ugliness of racism and injustice has once again raised its head in the recent murder of George Floyd by the Minneapolis Police Department. The immortal words of Eric Garner and now George Floyd ring out, ‘I can’t breathe.’

“We pray, oh God, that you would strengthen us to challenge the narratives and stereotypes that we have long held concerning certain populations which make allowances for the systemic inequalities that plague our nation and world. We need your help. Help us to resist temptations to concentrate on our differences and help us to instead embrace our human commonality.

“Unite us in the bond of peace as we endeavor to fulfill Your purpose in the earth until, “justice rolls down like water and righteousness like a mighty stream.”

“Bless our world. Bless our nation. Bless our city. Bless our Mayor and this Council.

“It is in your name that we pray. Amen.”