

## Lamentation: I am sorry

*by the Rt. Rev. Deon K. Johnson,  
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I am sorry! Lo siento!

I am sorry for the ways at the church hurt you and those you love.

I am sorry for the hurt and harm caused by fellow Christians.

I am sorry for not standing up for you when others called you every name but a child of God.

I am sorry for the times that we were silent, when you were being made to feel less than, when you felt unimportant or you felt unseen.

I am sorry for the times we did not see or chose not to see the person of infinite beauty that you are.

I am sorry that we stood on the sidelines when you were the victim of the evils of bias, homophobia, heterosexism, and transphobia.

I am sorry that we did not stand up for you, that we did not walk alongside you, that we did not show God's love to you when you needed it the most.

I am sorry that we could not be the loving, liberating, and life-giving presence of Jesus.

I am sorry that we chose silence over speaking out, that we let fear guide our actions rather than faith and love.

I am sorry that in the name of Jesus you have been hurt or harmed or hampered. Forgive me! Forgive us!

We were wrong. We did not offer our best selves. We did not love like Jesus, see like Jesus, act like Jesus. We should be better, we could be better, we will be better.

You are wonderfully and marvelously made in the image and likeness of God.

You are a beloved Child of God who is worthy of dignity, respect, and above all love.

You are seen and known by God who names you and claims you and proclaims you as beloved.

We believe that as followers of Jesus, we are infinitely better and stronger because of you. We promise to be outspoken advocates for the protections, visibility and opportunity you deserve. No matter who you are, no matter who or how you love, no matter what you have been told; you are God's gift and we celebrate all that you are, all that you have been, and all that you will be. You are God's own, God's blessing, God's love, just as you are!