A Christian's desire to participate in public worship—especially on Easter—should neither occasion surprise nor require explanation. This would appear to be an undeniable right both from the standpoint of our national heritage and common Methodist practice.

At a deeper level, the very nature and meaning of the Christian faith supports this desire and right. Indeed, we are assured that our God and Father seeks men to worship Him in Spirit and in Truth. Moreover, the New Testament faith assures us that this God-given privilege is open to all people, without regard to their race or color.

It is because we are prompted by such encouragement of faith that we have come to worship at Galloway Memorial Methodist Church today. We are aware, of course, that some members of this congregation, though surely not all of the members, do not desire to have other than white people attend services of worship here. We are aware too that some Negroes and others have been turned away. We stand united with such ones and regard that in some sense we represent them. This is true partly because we are Methodist bishops, responsible to the whole church for the whole church. But in a larger sense there cannot, in fact, be any true Christian worship at all which is not an intercession in behalf of all mankind, for Jesus Christ died and rose again for all.

We trust that our presence will not provoke you to wrath but to good works. We are hopeful that we shall be admitted for worship, despite contrary attitudes which may have been expressed.