



## Black Lives Matter

June 3rd, 2020

*In the late 1800s, a group of people gathered to start a church in what was then South Jacksonville. Elizabeth Swaim, a founder after whom the church would later be named, helped to begin a movement. She was a leader in the women's suffrage movement who installed women Sunday school teachers and helped bring justice during her years not only to her church but to her community.*

*That legacy evolved from supporting the rights of women to supporting the rights of our black siblings. Elizabeth Swaim Memorial later aligned itself with the Methodist Episcopal Church North, an explicitly anti-slavery movement. As one of few anti-slavery Methodist churches, Swaim Memorial was home to one of the only gyms where Black and White people could play basketball together.*

*Sadly, the church lost its zeal for inclusion, and allowed for the sin of violence, silence, and racial injustice. We repent of our sins.*

*More than 100 years later, the church founded by Elizabeth Swaim, now named San Marco Church, is reclaiming her legacy. We commit to build a vibrant and diverse community that champions the inclusive Gospel of Christ for the transformation of San Marco, Jacksonville, and the world. These are words. Words are not enough. Christ calls us to radically love and advocate for the disenfranchised. We must be a church that stands for Racial Justice. We must be a church that proclaims Black Lives Matter. We must be a church that continues to speak out for injustice in the world.*

*This is a movement to bring the Kingdom of God here, now.*