



Dear People of Immanuel,

It is a rare day when I can, with confidence, say that I speak for the entirety of Immanuel. This is one of those days.

What we are witnessing now at our Capitol, in real time, is deeply, deeply disturbing. We at Immanuel are united in our love of God, our love for one another, and our love for this amazing, fragile world God has given us to tend. We are truly called to be our brothers' and our sisters' keepers. We differ, to be sure, across the political spectrum and around different, distinct issues, but we all, I am sure, abhor and condemn the violence we are witnessing today. This is not who we are or how we do business. We are witnessing the very heart of our representative government, ordered by the rule of law, under unprecedented threat. The right of protest is fundamental to American citizens, but violence is not, be it from the left, the right, or the center, and it endangers us all.

What do we know?

- 1) God is in control. God cares about this world, beyond what we can even imagine, and God's heart of love must be breaking today.
- 2) Our system is robust, and I believe it will rise to this occasion.
- 3) There is much, much pain in our land. The President-Elect has a job on his hands like we cannot even imagine. Surely job one will be to begin bringing people together, across all sorts of differences, and reminding us all of our joint humanity.
- 4) We at Immanuel are called to be part of that healing. We have talented, caring, capable, deeply faithful people will be part of healing, individually and corporately.
- 5) We are called right now to pray: for all of our leaders, for the police and National Guard members called to restore order, for those across many divisions who are so angry and feeling unheard, and for ourselves.
- 6) It is well past time in this country to stop treating those with whom we disagree as enemies, but as fellow Americans. Perhaps today is a wake-up call, a time to move beyond partisan differences for the common good.
- 7) We must not, cannot, and will not silo only among people with whom we agree. No one person or group has all of the truth, and God loves all people. Even so, we will champion the rule of law, civility, and treating people as they are, indeed, made in the image and likeness of God.

Thank you, my brothers and sisters, for the deeply nourishing, life-giving community we share in Christ, which our nation and this world so sorely needs.

God bless you all,

Randy

The Rev. J. Randolph Alexander, Jr.
Rector