

Dear Friends,

Much has been lost in our Courts over the past couple weeks: right for women to choose, justice for voting in racial gerrymandering, separation between religion and the government was weakened, and the right of EPA to control carbon emissions. Gun violence still plagues our nation as we have had over 300 mass shootings in the United States this year alone. (A mass shooting is defined with 4 or more people being shot or killed). 70 shots were taken in Highland Park to kill 7 people and injure 35. 90 shots were taken by the police in Akron, Ohio, to bring down one black man, Jayland Walker, with 60 of them striking his body. In a Zoom meeting with other clergy in the Minnesota Conference on Wednesday morning, one remarked, "It is impossible to say, all will be well right now."

She is right. Right now, it is impossible to say all is well or all will be well. But in a couple months or a couple of years, life and our ills may not seem so impossible. Reminds of a comedian who was in a foreign city who asked a local for directions to a restaurant. The local replied, "You can't get there from here, go down to that sign (about 8 blocks) and ask them." Our country and our world have been through tough times before. Christians have been through far worse in their history, especially in the beginning, and the Jewish people have always faced struggles going back to Abraham and Sarah.

I don't know when and I don't know how, but things can get better. I can add my voice, my body, and my spirit to this church's effort, to join with communities across the United States and around the world, and we can add them to God's work and Kingdom. God, for me, is not a puppet-master who pulls our strings and forces us in what to do or say. In our free will as humans, we often make the wrong decisions and commit hurtful, even evil, acts. However, God, who raised Jesus from death after he was crucified, is able and willing to continue resurrection, healing, and the just ways of God's reign of love.

But now thus says the LORD, the One who created you, O Jacob,

The One who formed you, O Israel:

Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine.

Isaiah 43:1

Peace

Pastor Enno