

Dear Friends,

Well, the election wasn't as bad as some thought if you are a progressive. While writing this, control of the Senate and House is still up in the air. It may be the Democrats lose control of both, but whoever controls either or both will have only the slimmest of majorities. Unfortunately, the politics of misinformation, hatred, or fear are still alive and well in our country from running for a school board position to the next round of the next American President. There are no quick fixes as even if the politicians who practice such things are voted out, the people who voted them in are still going to be around for quite a while.

In medical parlance, this means we have to stop the bleeding (holding those who lie, spread fear, and try to control the vote responsible for their words and actions), but we also have to find the source of the infection (racism, patriarchy, Christian nationalism, unfettered capitalism, and sexism (and many others)) and clean it out. There is a belief that the American dream is reserved for those who look like the Founding Fathers and the rest of the people should be satisfied with table scraps. There is a culture that tries to prove that some people are better than others, but the color of their skin and zip code where they reside by excluding them legally and with social mores and tradition. There is a removal of the Golden Rule which says all the prophets and laws are summed up in this, "Treat your neighbor as you want to be treated."

To treat the infection, our prophets and those who have gone before have taught and showed us that love is our strongest tool (not weapons). Many of those who are on the 'other side' are fearful and angry and John tells us that God's love casts out fear. This will be the hardest thing to do, but it has to be done. As the power and influence of the MAGA shrink (it has been and continues to be), they will become even more frightened and probably even violent. We, the people of the US and the church, have to find ways to bring them back into community, back into fellowship, and back into a place of where we can go forward together. It is the only way for America and the world to move forward, get out of isolation and become one nation, indivisible with liberty and justice for all.

To treat others, we must remove as much hate, fear, and infection from our own hearts, church, and community as we can. We are not free of such things for no one is perfect. Let us seek to fill our hearts and community with love, with reconciliation, and a way forward to a better world.

Peace,
Pastor Enno