

Dear Friends,

Nick Fuentes, a holocaust-denier, Jim Crow apologizer, and promoter that women should not vote, visited our former President down in Mara Lago. He was a guest for dinner. I am not surprised or even offended by this, because it is in character of who I thought and think Trump is. Why I speak of this in a pastor's message is that most of the Republican leadership barely protested this gathering or suggested that Trump didn't know who was invited and the 'person' who did should be fired. I speak of this because Trump has announced his candidacy for President and is the forerunner for the nomination. To think that since Trump lost the election, the Democrats have held onto the Senate, and most election pushers of the Big Lie lost their races, that we are now free and clear for democracy to flourish once more.

The problem is that there are a dedicated group of people in our country who believe that diversity is not a strength but a weakness. They believe that rights and the constitution apply only to them and they can interpret it as they want. They believe in scarcity, hierarchy, and power are the trinity of their world and it is blessed by their personal Savior and protected by their guns.

The good news is that they are a small group and getting smaller as time goes on. The bad news is that they believe they can change this country through violence and have tried and will try again.

How are we to respond? First, we keep doing what we are doing in being a Just Peace and Open and Affirming community that proclaims that diversity, love, and compassion are central to God and to our country and world. Second, we keep marching and writing letters and letting our elected officials know where we stand whether they be Democrat or Republican. Third, we take care of ourselves, as this is a marathon and will take years to root. Lastly, we need to start talking to those neighbors and family, not to change their mind and win them to our side, but to start sowing the seeds of friendship and compassion once more. We must take away the base of followers, otherwise if Trump does fall, another one will quickly rise to take his place.

We are in relationship with a God of love and justice. Our history has shown that evil, power, fascism, may win the day or an election, but never sticks around. Let us ground ourselves in love and a readiness to fight the powers and principalities that threaten our world, our country, and our church.

Peace

Pastor Enno