

Pastor's Corner

Dear Friends,

This is a difficult time for our nation. It's not the first time it has struggled, and it won't be the last, but I'm not sure either of those truths are helpful *now*. If you are on the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Nebraska email list, you received a letter this week from Rev. Robin Blakemore, our Transitional Regional Minister. Robin wears many hats in her position, and, personally, the one I'm particularly thankful for today is her role as the pastors' pastor. We all, including pastors, need someone to remind us, when times get tough, of the bigger picture and greater power that is Christ alone. As my heart aches, and I search for words to speak to you all, I found her words to be a comfort. Below is a portion of her letter:

"Beloved Disciples, Grace and peace to you from the One who binds up the brokenhearted and calls us to walk courageously in the way of peace. These past weeks have weighed heavily upon our national soul. In Minneapolis, a series of confrontations between federal agents and community members—including multiple deaths—have shaken hearts and stirred deep questions about justice, safety, and our common humanity. The images and stories echo with grief. They remind us that every human life bears the imprint of God, and that no tragedy is ever 'just another headline.' As followers of Jesus, we are not called to rush past grief or explain it away. We are called to tell the truth about suffering and to stand with those whose lives are most vulnerable to the actions of powerful systems. Every life lost diminishes us. Every grieving family matters. Every community living in fear deserves to be seen and protected. ... This is not about party alignment or political slogans. It is about the Gospel we proclaim and the Christ we follow—the one who stood with those on the margins, refused violence as a solution, and called his followers to be peacemakers, even when the cost is real. [W]e commit ourselves anew to being a people who accompany the vulnerable, speak truth in love, and work for justice that leads toward healing rather than harm."

Hear her words again: "As followers of Jesus, we are not called to rush past grief or explain it away. We are called to tell the truth about suffering and to stand with those whose lives are most vulnerable to the actions of powerful systems." Please join me in feeling the grief, and then praying that *all people* (including ourselves) will have our hearts turned, and follow the only One who holds all power and authority; the One who came as the Prince of Peace for "the least of these." And who, though all worldly power was offered him in the Wilderness, willingly took on the Cross, for our sake, that all might know God's love. May this bring us all to our knees, worshiping God alone. Though we are hopelessly lost, God is merciful. He will never stop working to love and redeem his blessed Creation. And he needs us to be a part of that work. Let's find the courage to follow his ways. Peace be with you all.

"In this world you will have trouble; but take heart, I have overcome the world." John 16:33

"The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness." Lamentations 3:22-23

Pastor Kara

