

Pastor Christi ask this to be shared with our church family

Thoughts to consider regarding Former President Trump's Assassination Attempt

3 The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery, and, making her stand before all of them, 4 they said to him, "Teacher, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery. 5 Now in the law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?" 6 They said this to test him, so that they might have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. 7 When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, **"Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her."** 8 And once again he bent down and wrote on the ground. 9 When they heard it, they went away, one by one, beginning with the elders, and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him. 10 Jesus straightened up and said to her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" 11 She said, "No one, sir." And Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you. Go your way, and from now on do not sin again."

The recent event in our nation is disturbing on many levels. Whether you are committed to Former President Trump or not; what happened this week has shown the ugliness which occurs when we focus on anger, revenge, glee at another's suffering, disbelief and violence.

As God's beloved children, our call is to be in prayer for ALL of God's creation. We are not called to rejoice in the suffering of others whether we like the person or not. We are not called to rejoice when innocent people are killed. We are not called to rejoice when the shooter was killed.

Jesus pointed to this in the scripture passage above (see highlighted verse). In his statement to the Pharisees, he is lifting the third commandment; Thou shall not kill. This is the reminder Jesus gives to us and wants to understand that all life is cherished. Jesus does not condemn the woman for her actions but calls her not to sin again.

Where does this leave us as followers and believers of Christ? We are called to remember God is the sole judge over creation. We are to pray for our enemies, those who suffer and yes for the ones who commit terrible acts of violence. I invite ALL to join me in this prayer:

Almighty God, king and ruler over ALL you have created, guide us by your Spirit to offer compassion for all who suffer whether we agree with them or not. Be with the deceased gunman; we pray for forgiveness of him. Be with his family as they grapple with the difficulty of guilt, grief and the loss of their son. Be with the innocent victims of the gunman's shooting. Help their family find grace, peace and compassion. Be with Former President Trump and his family as they cope with this near-death experience. Be with us as a nation, help us to reconcile our differences and vote with your heart in the next election in order the one you have called to be our next president is elected. Help us remember Jesus died and rose again to bring new life to ALL, a life lived in LOVE. Amen.