



The First United Methodist Church of Oakhurst

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TO OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Across the past week we have been shocked by the outburst of violence across our nation. First, we witnessed the horrific assaults on those in the Asian community in Atlanta, and then, before we had an opportunity to catch our breaths, we were stunned by the outburst of violence in Boulder.

With terrible frequency, we are forced to view our fallen nature, as humanity's inhumanity shatters and distorts God's precious gift of life. In the words of a prayer by Michelle Torigian:

God beyond words-

I'm at a loss for what to say or think right now. Our common humanity and worth is forgotten with each act of violence. Our connection to one another is cut again and again when another word of hate is spoken.

Hold our hearts, Divine One. Nudge us to look past our days of grief to correct damaged systems and connect with our neighbors. May we find ways to turn our desire for weapons into tools to build, and our reliance on divisiveness into bridges of love and justice.

Amen.

As we embark on Holy Week, these news reports mingle with our faith, intertwining our grief over the crucifixion with our grief over the senseless loss of life.

May our faith lead us to the depth of transformation, that the divisions and brokenness of our world may be overcome by the resurrection gift of healing and new life.

Shawn Callender Hogan