



# MESSAGE FROM PASTOR CASSIDY

Beloved Christ Community Members and Friends

Grace and Peace.

The events which unfolded in Washington DC on Tuesday made it one of the most challenging and fearful days in American history, and as I write this, events arising from that day are continuing to unfold. How might we best respond as a congregation? First, of all, 'Fear not.' Psalm 46 should be in our hearts and on our lips today.

*God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore, we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging. There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy place where the Most High dwells. God is within her, she will not fall; God will help her at break of day.*

*Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall; he lifts his voice, the earth melts. The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress. Come and see what the Lord has done, the desolations he has brought on the earth. He makes wars cease to the ends of the earth. He breaks the bow and shatters the spear; he burns the shields with fire.*

*He says, "Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth."*

*The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.*

Secondly, we can pray; indeed, we must pray.

Whatever our views may be of elections and their outcomes, we have a responsibility to humble ourselves and pray for our nation, for those in authority, for those who serve us to protect us from violence and disorder. It is vital that we also ask for forgiveness for any of our own sins, personally or otherwise, that contribute to the divisiveness in our world, or which would cause others to conclude that the Christian Church supports violence or disorder.

I am asking our congregation to join me tomorrow – Friday, in a day of prayer and fasting for these issues. Unless health issues prevent skipping food for a meal, please forego a meal and join with friends and family members in the afternoon and/or evening in private homes in order to seek the Lord together. Because of concern for the health of all, we will not gather in large numbers at this time. Your Pastors believe we can and must, however, gather with one heart and mind and lift our united voices to God in prayer.

These are great and weighty matters, but they are not too great for the Almighty. As Isaiah observed, "*Surely the nations are like a drop in a bucket; they are regarded as dust on the scales*" (Isaiah 42). This matter is not too large for the one on whose shoulders the government of the whole cosmos rests.

Let us pray.

Pastor Cassidy