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"Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?"

I will, with God's help"

Baptismal Covenant, BCP, pg. 305

Parishioners and Friends of St. Mary's,

The violent attack on our nation's Capitol has shaken our community and our very selves. The continued rumors and threats of further violence shock us as well. Perhaps even more appalling, however, is the tepid response we have seen from leaders, elected officials, and even the President himself. What we thought would never happen in America, did. And we, as followers of Christ, must ask, "What now?"

First, we unequivocally condemn this attack and those who enabled it and we stand firmly against the ongoing effort to undermine our democracy. At the same time, we must look back and recognize that last week's insurrection clearly revealed an even deeper evil in our culture. White Supremacy in America has been a scourge for centuries, ever evolving into new and sophisticated means to violently oppress people of color. It is an evil that, at times, the Episcopal Church has been complicit in as well. We must open our eyes to the evil around us and within each of us and repent of that evil. Only then can we be beacons of Christ's light to others.

The Episcopal Church of St. Mary's, following the call of Presiding Bishop Michael Curry to be people of love, people of blessing, and people of deep and focused prayer, recommits our baptismal promise to strive for justice, peace, and the dignity of all humanity. We know we are imperfect and so we ask God to reveal where we have been blind and fallen short. We trust that the Holy Spirit will refine us into who we truly are and instill in us our true purpose as instruments of healing and hope in God's beloved world. We implore God to sustain and equip us for the work ahead, knowing that people's lives, and our democracy, depend on it.

May God's power working in us do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine, may Christ's love sustain us in the necessary work ahead, and may the Spirit embolden us to bear witness, to struggle, and to proclaim justice and peace for this nation and the world.

In humility and faith,

Rev. David Erickson, Rector
Matt Bartlett, Senior Warden
Christian Cebrian, Junior Warden