

ON THE OCCASION OF THE FIRST SUNDAY  
AFTER ANOTHER ASSAULT AGAINST AMERICANS

Dear Ones,

Increasingly it seems, America is not a safe place for Americans. Water sources prove unreliable; peaceful marchers are mowed down by cars; and now, last Sunday, over 500 citizens of the United States were injured and close to sixty died. They were not killed by an invading force or by foreign-inspired terrorists. They were killed by a fellow citizen. So, what does that mean? Well first of all, tears and regret are not enough. We are living in a culture which calls for change.

The Gospel is clear about violence. Jesus died submissively at the hands of violent people. Could he have raised a force of resistance? Almost certainly. But that is not the Christian way.

Rather, Jesus chose to speak the truth to power and in so doing, he changed the world.

I beg you this morning to raise your voices against the forces at work in this country who profit from the death of our fellow Americans. Contact your elected officials. Join people of good will in the streets. Say "No more."

On this Wednesday, October 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM, there will be a candlelight vigil at Market Square in Ossining. Get there. Let us, together, raise our voices in prayer and line up to be counted. There is much more to be done...but this is a start. We can make more plans from there.

Together, we are the Body of Christ, the keepers of a heavenly legacy. May God help us to preserve it.

Much love,

Cooper+