



The Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, Tequesta, Florida
The Rev. Douglas F. Scharf, Rector
Sunday, August 13, 2017

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The recent events in Charlottesville, Virginia are yet another reminder of the deep divisions that currently plague our nation and the world. Demonstrations of violence and hate serve only to further polarize and paralyze our country. In the midst of these rising tensions, it is natural to feel anxious and uncertain about the future. In the face of hatred and bigotry, it is natural to feel angry and distressed. We must not deny these natural human responses.

Yet, as followers of Jesus Christ, we are called to be instruments of healing and reconciliation. We are called to condemn violence and hatred in all its forms. We are called to renounce the evil powers of this world, to strive for justice and peace among people, and to respect the dignity of every human being. And so, I ask you to join me in praying for peace and healing for our nation and the world. Pray for the victims of the recent violence in Charlottesville and pray for all those who work for justice, peace, and reconciliation. I invite you to join me in praying the following Collect for Peace, which reminds us that we are all children of God, created in the image of God and loved unconditionally. May God bless you now and always!

In Christ,

A Collect for Peace

Eternal God, in whose perfect kingdom no sword is drawn but the sword of righteousness, no strength known but the strength of love: So mightily spread abroad your Spirit, that all peoples may be gathered under the banner of the Prince of Peace, as children of one Father; to whom be dominion and glory, now and forever. Amen.