To our neighbors who are anxious this week because you are women, Muslim, African American, Native American, Latino/a, immigrant, LGBTQ persons, and differently-abled,

We see you. Many of us are you.

We know that overt sexism, corruption, xenophobia, racism, homophobia, and Islamophobia have not only been undercurrents of our political rhetoric this year, but, in many cases, prominent features of it.

After the election, like many of you, we woke with a gnawing fear that that rhetoric might translate into acts of injustice against you, your families, and your bodies.

As priests and deacons of the Episcopal Church in Minnesota, we believe that every person is created in God’s image, imbued and blessed with inherent dignity and worth. We reject the notion that one group of people benefit only at the expense of another group. We will not sit idly by and allow the rights and dignity of any of our community to be threatened or revoked.

We see you and we stand with you.

Simultaneously, we repent of where the church has failed or fallen down in this work - we know we have not always stood with you. We recognize the great responsibility the church has to join in God’s mission to reconcile the world, to never cease in working against injustice, and we commit to working for policies and systems that will bring healing and restoration and relief.

- We will continue the work of peace and justice, to feed the hungry, house the homeless, and welcome the refugee and immigrant.
- We will be active in civic conversations.
- We will build bridges of friendship and kinship between our faith communities.
- We will be committed to breaking bread with all our neighbors and witness to the strength of respectful relationship in these times.

To any of our neighbors who find themselves the target of discrimination, racism, islamophobia, homophobia, sexism, or any kind of bigotry – we are with you. We pledge our support as leaders in the wider community, that we will stand between you and injustice. Our doors are open and our faith communities are safe spaces to any who need them.

God’s gift to us is our difference and diversity. We believe we are strengthened as a diverse people by the great gifts you bring to our common life.

Whatever comes next, we want to be in relationship with you and we commit to being strong allies with you.

We see you and we stand with you!

Faithfully,
The Reverends

Vant Albert Washington III Minneapolis
Devon Anderson Excelsior
Alice Mae Applequist Chatfield
Mary Ellen Ashcroft Grand Marais
Marilyn Baldwin Stillwater
Susan Barnes Minneapolis
Phil Boelter Minneapolis
Kate Bradtmiller St. Paul
Cindi Brickson Minneapolis
Cynthia Bronson Sweigert Minneapolis
Deborah E. Brown Eagan
Lydia Huttar Brown Minneapolis
John Bellaimey Minneapolis
Joy Caires St. Paul
Justin Chapman Faribault
Rob Cavanna Elk River
Tom Cook Edina
Cassandra Cook-Quarry Faribault
Lisa Cressman
Judith DesHarnais St. Paul
Susan Daughty Minneapolis
Barbara del Caro Scaia Minneapolis
Terry Dinovo St. Paul
Lee Domenick Minneapolis
Jan Dougherty Eagan
Guy Drake Minnetonka
John Dwyer Roseville
Tom Eklo Richfield
Barb Elliot Duluth
Diane Elliott Edina
Neil Elliott St. Paul
Margaret Fell Minneapolis
Leonard Freeman Minnetonka
Lindsay Freeman Minnetonka
Tom Gehlsen Rochester
Morris Goodwin Wayzata
Buff Grace Stillwater
Dawnyynn Greeney Minneapolis
Mary Groeninger Ely
Cheryl Harder Hermantown
Tom Harries St. Peter
Eileen Harvala Anoka
Georgia Hecock Detroit Lakes
Cindy Hillger Minnetonka
Lisa Wiens Heinsoh Edina
Cindy Hillger Minnetonka
Brenda Hoffman Stillwater
Sandra Holmberg Detroit Lakes
Judy Hoover Golden Valley
Randy Johnson  White Bear Lake
Eunice Koch  Ely
Marilyn Leach  Marshall
Craig Lemming  Minneapolis
Katherine Lewis  Minnetonka
Jason Lucas  Wayzata
Janet MacNally  Roseville
Marta Maddy  Duluth
Colin Maltbie  Faribault
Gayle Mardene Marsh  Northfield
Margy Mattlin  St. Paul
Sally Maxwell  Duluth
Rex McKee  St. Paul
Jennifer McNally  Sunfish Lake
Anne Miner-Pearson  Excelsior
Scott Monson  Basswood Grove
Susan Moss  St. Paul
Keely Morgan  St. Paul
Anthony Morley  Minneapolis
Barbara Mraz  St. Paul
Lynn Naeckel  International Falls
Fred Nairn  Minnetonka
Charles Nelson  Albertville
Theo Park  Sunfish Lake
Daniel Pearson  St. Louis Park
Cindy Peterson-Wlosinski  Duluth
Mary Phelps  Anoka
Roger Phillips  Sauke Centre
Michael Pipkin  Edina
Blair Pogue  St. Paul
John Rettger  Minneapolis
Paul Rider  Mankato
Neptali Rodriguez  St. Paul
Gretchen Roeck  Minneapolis
Phil Rose  St. Paul
Ramona Scarpace  Minneapolis
Phillip Schaffner  Minneapolis
Steve Schaitberger  Brainerd
Carolyn Schmidt  Grand Marais
Christine Seaton  Fairmont
Paul Shaffer  White Bear Lake
Tom Sinning  Alexandria
Coke Smith  White Earth
Georgianna Smith  Sunfish Lake
Georgia Steele  Fairmont
Betty Strong  St. Paul
John Sullivan  Austin
Bill Teska  Minneapolis
Margaret Thor  St. Paul
Michael Tippett  Owatonna
Richard Todd  White Bear Lake
Colleen Tully Marshall
Rena Turnham Minneapolis
Robert Two Bulls Minneapolis
Bill Van Oss Duluth
Barbara von Haaren Red Wing
Penelope Warren St. Louis Park
LeeAnne Watkins St. Paul
Jered Weber-Johnson St. Paul
Chip Whitacre Excelsior
Lisa White Smith Plymouth
Marilla Whitney New Ulm
Stephen Whitney-Wise St. Paul
James Wilson St. Paul
Letha Wilson-Barnard St. Paul
Stephen Wlosinski Duluth
James Young Northfield