

August 21, 2024

To Community of Christ in the U.S.A.,

Greetings in the peace of Jesus Christ. As we move toward national elections in November, we hold our nation and each of you in prayer. We carry on our hearts the hope of healing widening divisions, restoring civility to our public discourse, and renewing our commitment to compassionately find common ground as we actively participate in God's unfolding future.

As we are challenged in Doctrine and Covenants 163:3a and c:

"You are called to create pathways in the world for peace in Christ to be relationally and culturally incarnate. The hope of Zion is realized when the vision of Christ is embodied in communities of generosity, justice, and peacefulness. ... That which seeks to harden one human heart against another by constructing walls of fear and prejudice is not of God. Be especially alert to these influences, lest they divide you or divert you from the mission to which you are called."

As followers of Jesus, the peaceful One, we are called to see beyond our differences and embrace that which connects one human heart to another. Our shared brokenness and desire for healing transcends age, class, ethnicity, race, religion, sexual orientation, and political ideology. Our Enduring Principles ground us in the Worth of All Persons, reveal divine possibility in our diversity, and instill authentic hope in our vision of God's Shalom.

As citizens of a nation founded on the principle of "We the People," we must work tirelessly to bridge our differences while we work together for the common good. We must stand against violence towards candidates and others working in the political process. May we trust in the Spirit to empower us with courage to listen, patience to understand, and love to heal and forgive in the weeks ahead.

In the peace of Christ,

Apostles serving U.S.A. Fields,

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