



The Episcopal Diocese of Florida
325 N. Market Street
Jacksonville, FL 32202
www.diocesfl.org

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

On behalf of the entire Episcopal Diocese of Florida, I offer deep condolences to all members of Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh and all those affected by the horrific crime that shattered the lives of so many. This senseless act took eleven innocent lives who were at worship. We Florida Episcopalians stand in support of our Jewish brothers and sisters and want them to know that they do not stand alone.

The Word of God as set forth in Deuteronomy 30:19 is the message to which you and I must hold fast: *“Behold, I set before you this day, life and death, blessing and curse: therefore choose life, that you and your descendants may live.”* As Christians, we are children of Abraham by adoption. The deaths we mourn are truly those of our brothers and sisters!

The horror of the event, to attack and strike the elderly during worship, is heinous and must be condemned by all Christians and by all Americans. We must pray. Pray for those affected and injured. Pray for the families of the victims. Pray for the Pittsburgh communities. Pray for our nation as a whole.

I invite you into a season of reflection and prayer. Please focus on this from our Book of Common Prayer:

O God, you made us in your own image and redeemed us through Jesus your Son: Look with compassion on the whole human family; take away the arrogance and hatred which infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; unite us in bonds of love; and work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish your purposes on earth; that, in your good time, all nations and races may serve you in harmony around your heavenly throne; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Faithfully,

The Rt. Rev. Samuel Johnson Howard