



"What does the Lord require of you? To act justly, and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." (Micah 6.8)

Yesterday, Wednesday, January 6, 2021 we heard reports and witnessed something that I honestly never thought I would see. People, apparently citizens of these United States storming the US Capitol. People were shot. People have died. Our governmental proceedings were stopped. This is not an act of patriotism, but an attack. An attack on our country, its principles, and all of its citizens. The actions of those few, do not represent these United States of America. Former President George W. Bush and his wife, Laura, said it best, that this is "a sickening and heartbreaking sight."

Just a few days ago we celebrated the birth of the Prince of Peace. Lord Jesus, we need Your peace! Yesterday's events in our nation's capital were anything but peaceful. I fully support a peaceful transfer of power from one elected official to another throughout every aspect of our democratic society. I want to challenge the Middletown UMC family to do three things:

1. Pray and Pray again. Invite others to pray with you.
2. Speak up. This attack was wrong. Name it. Speak the truth.
3. Regardless of your political affiliations, ideologies, and who you voted for please support ALL of our elected officials.

Now is the time for us to be UNITED. Now is a time for PEACE. Now is the time to stop the divide and come together.

Please pray with me:

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:

where there is hatred, let me sow love;

where there is injury, pardon;

where there is doubt, faith;

where there is despair, hope;

where there is darkness, light;

where there is sadness, joy.

O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek

to be consoled as to console,

to be understood as to understand,

to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive,

it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,

and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

Amen.

(Peace Prayer of St. Francis)