



New Mexico Conference of Churches
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Pastoral Message on Christchurch Mosque Shootings

Dear Churches of New Mexico,

This morning we awoke to news of mass shootings at two mosques in Christchurch, New Zealand, Aotearoa. We join in mourning for the ones who were killed and wounded and for their families. We pray for them and for first responders, grief counselors, and all whose lives have been traumatized today. We affirm that God is present in the midst of suffering.

Our Muslim neighbors here in New Mexico are also very much in our prayers. Many will wonder whether it is safe to attend Friday prayers today. No person of faith should have to ask such questions in living out their sacred tradition. We recognize the common reality reflected in today's statement by the Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton, Presiding Bishop, ELCA:

“Hate-filled violence knows no bounds – whether a Sikh Temple in Oak Creek, a Christian church in Charleston, a Jewish synagogue in Pittsburgh’ – and now these mosques in New Zealand.”

Together with inter-religious partners, we condemn hatred, bigotry, racism and violence whenever and wherever it occurs. All are made in the image of God. May we find in this devastation the possibility to be Christ's presence with our neighbors, reaching out to those in need today and in the weeks to come.

Let us recommit to being partners in God's justice and peace.

In peace,

The Rev. Susan J. Quass
Executive Director
New Mexico Conference of Churches

Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Community of Christ, The Episcopal Church,
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Mennonite Church USA, Presbyterian Church (USA),
Roman Catholic Church, United Church of Christ, The United Methodist Church