



**January 15, 2021**

## **BOSTON CHURCH OF CHRIST SCUAD**

This statement is written on behalf of the Boston Church of Christ SCUAD (Social, Cultural, Unity and Diversity) in response to the events that took place at the US Capitol on January 6, 2021.

Our country is in great need of prayer and healing. On January 6, 2021, during a peaceful protest, angry citizens stormed the US Capitol building because they believed the recent presidential election results ought to be overturned. These rioters scaled the walls, broke windows, marched through the building and fought officers while Congress was in session to validate the Presidential and Vice-Presidential election results. Sadly, this riot resulted in five deaths and now hundreds of arrests. People on all political sides agree that this was a terrible moment in our national history.

The storming of the Capitol building is being viewed through different lenses: the political lens, the social lens, the racial lens and many more. Regardless of how you view the event, it is understandable if you are hurt, angry, confused, frustrated or anxious. God grieves with those who grieve and empathizes with those who are hurt. As members of Christ's body, we "mourn with those who mourn" (Romans 12:15).

As disciples of Jesus, we are committed to viewing the world through the lens of our Lord. We each chose to seek first the kingdom of God over the empires of men. During these historic, divided, and troubling times there is a temptation to "choose a side" but we want to remind Christians that this country is not their Kingdom and the President is not their King. As Christians, we are not directed by God to choose the left or the right, Christians must choose Up. The question is not, "Which side is right?" But rather "Who is right?" We must look to God for direction from his Word during times like these, and not the world. We urge you not to demonize other people or parties but rather to love your neighbor and your enemies. As followers of Jesus, we do not support violence in any form but work to promote unity, respect, and love.

Unfortunately, what happened on January 6th may not be a one-time occurrence. Local and federal government agencies are preparing for further attacks leading up to the inauguration at each state capitol and the US Capitol. The next week or more could bring much more anxiety, anger, and grief.

But regardless of what does or does not happen, we are calling all Christians to prayer and to be there for each other, their family, and neighbors.

- Pray for our government officials and servants, that there will be a peaceful transition of power and inauguration.
- Pray that the nation can experience a time of peace and healing.
- Pray that the church can be a safe space for members to express their thoughts and feelings.
- Pray that the church can be a light to all those who have seen the darkness in the world.
- Pray for each disciple to have and to share the peace that surpasses understanding.

In Him,

The Boston Church of Christ SCUAD (Social, Cultural, Unity and Diversity Team)

*I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people— for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. 1 Timothy 2:1-4 NIV*