

Dearest Chebeague Community and Church Family,

I'm deeply saddened to hear about the recent tragedy that has struck our state. Having personally experienced the impact of a mass shooting in my own community, I am familiar with the pain, grief, anger, and sense of loss that accompanies what is now an all-too-common tragic event. As a fellow human being who understands the depth of sorrow that follows in the wake of such an incident, my heart aches for the people of Lewiston, with you in our community, and the entire state of Maine.

I understand that no words can fully express the sorrow we're all feeling, but I want you to know that my heart is with you in this difficult time.

In moments like these, we often turn to our faith for strength and solace. One scripture that brings comfort during such times is Philippians 4:7 from The Message Bible, which says:

"And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

As we come together as a community and a church, I want to offer words of comfort to those who are directly affected by this tragedy. I mourn with you and am praying for you in this time of sorrow, for the families who have lost loved ones, for those who are injured, and for all who this tragedy has touched.

Let us pray:

Loving God,

We come before you with heavy hearts, seeking your comfort and peace. We ask for your presence to be with those who are suffering, especially the families who have lost loved ones. Wrap them in your loving embrace and grant them strength. We pray for healing and recovery for the injured and for a sense of unity and resilience to overcome this tragedy. May our community find solace and support in one another during this difficult period of grief.

We also pray for a world where such senseless acts of violence no longer occur. Guide us in our efforts to promote peace, love, and understanding.

In your name, we pray. Amen.

In this time of mourning, let us lean on one another and our faith to find the strength to heal and move forward together. Please know that I am thinking of you and look forward to standing with you in person.

With heartfelt condolences,

Victor Diaz