

October 3, 2017

Dear Grace Church Family and Friends,

When I turned on the television yesterday morning, I was shocked to hear of the shooting in Las Vegas. While the commentator spoke, I saw the number of victims on the bottom of the screen, and to be honest, I had to turn the television off, because I couldn't bear the details. How could someone purposely try to hurt and kill so many people? The idea was just so horrific, so... evil.

In the last twenty-four hours, I have tried to find something positive to hold onto, something to give me some hope, and as difficult as that has been, my mind keeps going back to the great hymn by Martin Luther, which reminds us that good is stronger than evil, love is more powerful than hate, and we can get through anything, because God is on our side.

*A mighty Fortress is our God, a Bulwark never failing;  
Our Helper He amid the flood, of mortal ills prevailing:  
For still our ancient foe, doth seek to work us woe;  
His craft and power are great, and, armed with cruel hate,  
On earth is not his equal.*

*Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing;  
Were not the right Man on our side, the Man of God's own choosing:  
Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is He;  
Lord Sabbath His Name, from age to age the same,  
And He must win the battle.*

*And though this world, with devils filled, should threaten to undo us,  
We will not fear, for God hath willed, His truth to triumph through us:  
The Prince of Darkness grim, we tremble not for him;  
His rage we can endure, for lo! his doom is sure,  
One little word shall fell him.*

*That word above all earthly powers, no thanks to them, abideth;  
The Spirit and the gifts are ours, through Him who with us sideth:  
Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also;  
The body they may kill: God's truth abideth still,  
His Kingdom is forever.*

See you in church,  
Andrew