



## REFLECTIONS

Words to describe what I saw that defied reason

Astonishment.

The shining light of Democracy has been dimmed. Sometimes our nation has been arrogant in asserting its superiority in terms of how we govern. The idea that "all men are created equal" is indelibly sealed into our hearts and minds. But even those words betray the limits that were present in the minds of the architects of the constitution. "all MEN". And indeed, that is what they meant. Not only just men but white protestant males. Today those words mean something different. Today women are making progress towards the highest office in the land, black and brown skinned people are able to demand equality and continue to work towards that end. Same sex couples are able to marry. All of these and other similar changes have occurred over the decades and centuries since the first signing of the document.

Yesterday, we were surprised by the astonishing events that went on at the Capital of our United States. It was shocking and embarrassing. The world watched as the violence continued at the center of our democracy. Our enemies delighted in the anarchy displayed; our allies offered sympathy.

What do we do with this as Episcopalians? Did you know that one third of the signers of the Declaration of Independence were from the Church of England, our ancestral church?

We just finished a season of penitence and reflection in the church. John the Baptist cried out from the wilderness to change and return to God. Jesus' life was political. He shamed and humiliated the religious leaders of his time. Why? Because his mission was to bring the world back to tolerance, love, and forgiveness. I believe that today we have the opportunity to glimpse the depths of God's efforts to get us on the right path towards love.

Astonishment? I don't think we need to be astonished. We need to get back to Truth, to Tolerance, to understanding the passion that moves people towards racism, greed, and violence. We are being called to re-examine our lives as individuals and as a nation, to strive to make it right. We are called to calm, order and understanding. We are called to Love. We must move towards love if we are to survive. Nothing else matters. But the act of loving also calls us to demand that those who are 'least among us' be carried on our shoulders, protected from the exploitation of all the forces of human nature that drag us under the hooves of chaos and anarchy.

Let us pray.

The Rev. Dr. Joyce Caggiano