



Raquette Lake Chapel Sunday Blast

September 8, 2024

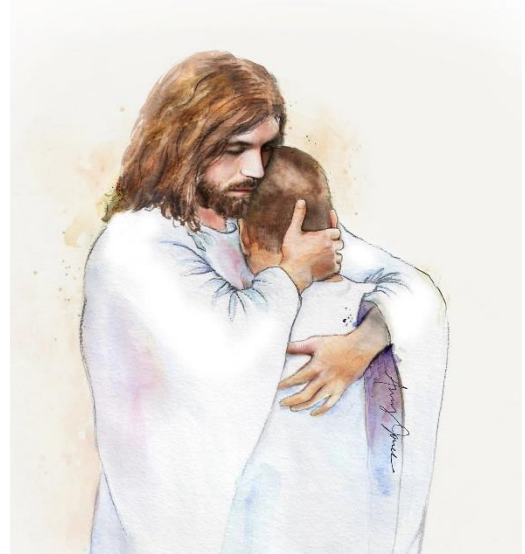
"Preaching the Gospel: Reconciliation"

"All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation." (2 Corinthians 5:18-19, NIV)

Becoming reconciled to someone who has wronged us may be the most difficult thing we have to do in life. All of us have been wronged in our lives, sometimes violently and repeatedly. Isn't our first reaction to get even, to strike back? And probably our last reaction, if it exists at all, is to forgive?

A Mass Shooting at a Church. On June 17, 2015, a tragic event occurred at the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, South Carolina, where nine people were killed during a Bible study session. Despite the immense pain and loss, several family members of the victims chose to forgive the shooter during his bond hearing. They expressed their forgiveness and even prayed for his soul, demonstrating a profound act of reconciliation. A profound act of reconciliation...

How will the people in Georgia reconcile their loss in the recent mass shooting at a high school? I don't know. I don't think it's humanly possible to reconcile ourselves to such a loss. But the key word is "humanly": not humanly possible but with through the sacrifice of Christ.



2 Corinthians 5:18-19 speaks about God reconciling the world to Himself through Christ and entrusting us with the ministry of reconciliation. The families' actions in Charleston exemplify the Christian call to forgive and reconcile, even in the face of unimaginable pain.

As believers, we are entrusted with the "ministry of reconciliation." We are called to share the message of God's reconciliation with others. We are ambassadors of Christ, spreading the good news that through Jesus, people can be reconciled to God, and we can be reconciled to the imperfections of this life. This is unbelievably hard for the people in Georgia and all those who suffer tragedy. But they are not alone. They are strengthened by Christ...and us.

Prayer Box: *Heavenly Father, in times of deep sorrow and tragedy, we turn to You for comfort and strength. We thank You for reconciling us to Yourself through Christ and for the ministry of reconciliation You have entrusted to us. We pray for all those who are grieving, that they may feel Your loving presence and find peace in Your promise of forgiveness and restoration. Help us to be instruments of Your love and reconciliation, offering support and compassion to those in need. May Your grace and mercy surround us all. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.*