



University Chaplaincy

Dear Tufts University community,

Last Friday, AS&E exams ended, students moved out of residence halls, and seniors started their Senior Week. We have eagerly anticipated this time for them – a time to pause and reflect, to relish beautiful weather on a campus awash in spring greens and pastel blooms, and to celebrate with friends and colleagues. We wish we could just celebrate. But this weekend's tragedy in Buffalo demands our attention.

In the wake of racial terror and violence, communities of faith and conscience join together to pray and support. As Muslims and Jews, Christians and Buddhists, Hindus and Humanists, we draw upon the texts and practices that give words and motion to the grief, rage, fear, and despair we feel. We remember the ten people most of us never knew but will never forget, their names in our hearts and on our lips. We pray for healing and comfort for the three wounded. We pray for the people of Buffalo directly targeted in this racist attack and lament the sins of white supremacy. But prayers are not enough. This crisis demands action.

As people of faith, conscience, and community, it is time for us to act. Racism, antisemitism, anti-Muslim bias, misogyny – increasingly rampant in our society – do not reflect the shared values of love and liberation that the best of our traditions and practices reflect. Our prophets and teachers, both ancient and new, implore us to turn our prayers into courageous action and to confront the brokenness within ourselves and our society so that we might be a part of the repair, justice and healing so desperately needed now.

As a University Chaplaincy, we commit to learning, struggling, speaking and transforming together. And we are here for you—students, faculty, and staff alike. There are many in our community and beyond who feel the personal nature of these attacks in ways that others will never fully comprehend. With this truth on our hearts, we seek to honor dignity through our commitment to revolutionary love and justice. May peace and love guide us all in these coming days, and may our celebrations of the incredible accomplishments of our graduates inspire us to do the work we're meant to do.

In solidarity,

Reverend Elyse Nelson Winger, M.Div.
University Chaplain

Lynn Cooper, D.Min.
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