



# University Chaplaincy

Dear friends, students, and colleagues,

The devastating news of Saturday's shooting at Club Q in Colorado Springs has torn our hearts asunder. We grieve for those whose lives were lost to this hate. We lament with all who are sick and tired of defending their lives, identities, and worth.

The attack took place minutes before midnight on Saturday and the beginning of Sunday's Trans Day of Remembrance. That this assault happened at a time of deep significance and in the sanctuary of a queer club—a physical space that is meant to honor queer lives, comfort, connection, and joy—makes this act of terror all the more devastating.

As leaders of religious and philosophical communities, it is not enough to be tolerant. We must lift up, embrace and celebrate queer identities and commit to dismantling the hate-permitting cultures within our traditions and in this country. Queer lives are holy and beloved; this is our guiding truth.

As we head into fall break, please know that the University Chaplaincy is here to support you.

On behalf of the University Chaplaincy team,

Elyse Nelson Winger, University Chaplain  
Lynn Cooper, Associate Director and Catholic Chaplain

**Tufts University Chaplaincy | Goddard Chapel, 3 The Green | Medford, MA 02155 USA**  
**[chaplaincy.tufts.edu](http://chaplaincy.tufts.edu) | [chaplaincy@tufts.edu](mailto:chaplaincy@tufts.edu) | 617.627.3427**

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