Friends,

It was a glorious thing to see so many of you bearing witness to God's love and justice at the No Kings March on June 14, 2025. You showed up with thousands of folks from Durham to stand up for *who* you believe God has called you to protect and honor. With millions of your fellow Americans, you stood in solidarity and hope in the goodness of humanity and the right to freedom for all. I give thanks for the love of God which showed so clearly in your words, shouts, signs, songs, prayers and steps.

As you go forth into these days, I invite you to ponder the words of John O'Donohue, who penned this prayer in his book *To Bless the Space Between Us*:

> *In these times when anger*
> *Is turned into anxiety*
> *And someone has stolen*
> *The horizons and mountains,*
>
> *Our small emperors on parade*
> *Never expect our indifference*
> *To disturb their nakedness.*
>
> *They keep their heads down*
> *And their eyes gleam with reflection*
> *From aluminum economic ground,*
>
> *The media wraps everything*
> *In a cellophane of sound,*
> *And the ghost surface of the virtual*
> *Overlays the breathing earth.*
>
> *The industry of distraction*
> *Makes us forget*
> *That we live in a universe.*
>
> *We have become converts*
> *To the religion of stress*
> *And its deity of progress;*
>
> *That we may have courage*
> *To turn aside from it all*

And come to kneel down before the poor,
To discover what we must do,
How to turn anxiety
Back into anger,
How to find our way home.

May our God of justice and peace, be the light and truth to lead you in these days (Psalm 43).

Love,

Pastor Esther