

A Message from Bishop-elect Kym Lucas
May 8, 2019

For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future and hope. -- Jeremiah 29:1

Hearing the news about the shooting at STEM school in Highlands Ranch, I felt a barrage of emotions: fear, anger, heartbreak, and a profound sense of anguish. Twenty years after the shooting at Columbine High School, our schools and communities continue to be terrorized by gun violence.

Like many others, I am praying for the victims and their families. I am praying especially for Kendrick Castillo, the brave young man who died trying to stop one of the shooters. As the mother of a high school senior, I cannot imagine how shattering it would be to have to bury my child just before what would have been his graduation day. My heart breaks for his family.

And even as I am praying for the victims, I am praying for the shooters: for Devon Erickson and the unnamed young woman. I pray for them because I cannot imagine the amount of isolation, frustration, rage, and hopelessness that would lead two young people to believe that shooting their classmates was the answer. I am praying for them because I know they are not the only ones being consumed by those things.

I am praying for our nation because there is a profound illness and brokenness within us that is producing people without hope. And while our nation's Faustian bargain with guns is being paid with the lives of our children, the gun violence seems to me the glaring symptom of the epidemic of deep rage and hopelessness that infects us.

It is the call of the Church to be communities of hope: not hope in the vain treasures of this world, but hope in Love and the gift of life. I pray that our communities of faith will have the courage to address not only the pain within their congregations, but also the communities outside their doors. I hope that by grace, we will address the disparities in our nation, examine the dynamics of privilege and disenfranchisement and bear witness to the light of hope in this present darkness.

Bishop-elect Kym Lucas
The Episcopal Church in Colorado