

Transcript of Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee's Statement to Synod on January 7, 2021

There are times when events in our nation and world are shocking – we search for words to try to make sense of what we are seeing and hearing and reading. Yesterday's events at our Capitol Building in Washington, D.C and in Olympia are no different. We are left with feelings of concern, disbelief, anger, sadness, fear, the sense of chaos.

Along with many others, I decry any leader who would incite an assault on the democratic processes of our great nation, and I denounce anyone who desecrates and creates fear and mayhem. These actions have put our elected leaders and members of law enforcement in danger. We pray for an end to this violence. We pray for those who have a grievance that they may act peacefully and justly. We pray for a peaceful transition of administrations. We pray for reconciliation and healing in this country and that all voices may be heard. We pray for the true peace of Jesus.

Hear these words written by William Whitla.

They come from the first two verses of the hymn Let Streams of Living Justice:

Let streams of living justice flow down upon the earth.

Give freedom's light to captives; let all the poor have worth.

The hungry's hands are pleading; the workers claim their rights,

The mourners long for laughter, the blinded seek for sight.

Make liberty a beacon, strike down the iron power.

Abolish ancient vengeance. Proclaim your people's hour.

For healing of the nations, for peace that will not end.

For love that makes us lovers, God grant us grace to mend.

Weave our varied gifts together: knit our lives as they are spun.

On your loom of life enroll us till the thread of life is run.

O great Weaver of our fabric, bind church and world in one.

Dye our texture with your radiance, light our colors with your sun.

Bring fortitude and comfort to this nation as we grieve the consequences of yet more violence and teach us all to apply our hearts and minds to your wisdom, your kindness, your love, your justice, your reconciliation. Where there is fear, bring hope. Where there is hatred, bring love. We look to you in hope. We look to one another and see your face. And so we ask, trust, and turn to you, O Jesus, our savior and true Lord. Amen,