

United Protestant Church of France

President of the National Council

Paris, 14 November 2015 - 10:00

Message to local churches and parishes of the United Protestant Church of France

Words fail us in the face of the horror and absurdity of these massacres in Paris and the surrounding region of Ile-de-France.

The horror of dozens and dozens of dead and injured, attacked so savagely.

The horror of lives being destroyed or cut short, and families decimated.

The absurdity of a massacre that kills blindly.

The absurdity of a terrorist ideology that evokes a bloodthirsty god.

The victims, targeted at random by the shootings and explosions in places that appear to have been carefully selected: a football stadium, a theatre, terrace cafés and restaurants. Places of leisure and culture, where people go to meet their friends in the company of many others. The places targeted were precisely those where people meet and enjoy each other's company. It is just such places that we must preserve and protect.

In the face of such fear and despondency, what can we do?

We can pray. We can hold before God the victims and all those who care for them. Hold before God the men and women of the public services who have been mobilized, and the leaders of our country. But also pray that the violence of those blinded by fantasies of radical purity may end.

We can listen and we can share our words. In our relationships, how we use our time, our meetings, our places of worship, we can make room to exchange thoughts and silence, Receive and share words, sighs, tears, questioning, anger.

We can also nurture the solidarity and fraternity, so fragile and so precious, with which we have been entrusted.

We offer the present time and all things to the living God who in Jesus Christ, is with us, accompanying us in our distress and our hopes.

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