

## VIA EMAIL ONLY

May 26, 2020

The Rt. Rev. J. Scott Mayer scott.mayer@edfw.org

Dear Bishop Mayer, Clergy and People of the Episcopal Diocese of Fort Worth,

I recall with great fondness the time not so long ago when I was blessed to make a pastoral visitation with you. We worshipped God together, visited several of your ministries, had opportunity for conversation and fellowship. That time was such a joy.

Today I write on behalf of The Episcopal Church, in a moment of genuine sadness in light of the recent ruling of the Supreme Court of Texas. This is a great disappointment for you and for all of us in The Episcopal Church.

In 1st Thessalonians St. Paul speaks of the painful reality of death. He affirms the importance of grieving as necessary for us when we are sorrowful. Then he says, grieve, "but not as others do who have no hope." (4:13). Grief, sorrow and heartache are real. But hope is a greater reality. Our hope is in the love of God that we have come to know in Jesus Christ, once crucified and now raised from the dead and reigning in glory.

No matter what, the power of that love of God can lift us and guide us and see us through anything! "For I am convinced," writes St. Paul elsewhere, "that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

God love you. God bless you. And may God hold you and the entire human family in those almighty hands of love.

Your brother in Christ,

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The Most Reverend Michael B. Curry Presiding Bishop and Primate The Episcopal Church

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