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As Church United, we grieve the horrific acts of violence that occurred in Fort Lauderdale today, taking the lives of five people and wounding eight others. We are in shock and mourn with those who are mourning. We cry out with the prophets of old and the voices of today, "How long, O Lord, how long?" We often find it hard to know exactly how to respond as people of faith to things like this. We are shocked and deeply saddened.

Fort Lauderdale, South Florida, is our home. We live, work, raise our families, and worship here. Its pain is our pain.

We stand with our city leaders, first responders, and fellow residents affected by this tragedy. We are praying for you. We love you, and we are here to serve you. To our Mayor and fellow city leaders, we commend you for your leadership. To our first responders, we are thankful for your bravery. To all residents and visitors to our beautiful city, we are here for you. We pledge to work shoulder-to-shoulder with you to ensure that love is greater than evil and that peace in the midst of violence is found.

We are praying for you and with you — for the victims and their families, for friends and loved ones affected.

As we grieve, may we also remember that our hope lies in the Prince of Peace. As we pray, let us ask the God of all comfort to gently remind us all that he is near, that he is present, and that his love is greater.

If there is anything more we can do to be of immediate help, please let us know.

On behalf of Church United and with our deepest sympathies, we are,

Yours in Christ,

Church United South Florida.

