



**Bishop Thomas J. Brown issued the following call to prayer
for our nation on Jan. 6, 2021**

Dear friends, earlier this afternoon people stormed our nation's capitol offices and are threatening both our lawmakers and our democratic process, and indeed the very understanding of what it means to live in a democracy. We have long been a country and a people who have stood for the right and the principles on which peaceful demonstrations occur. And we denounce and we deplore what is happening right now.

The need for us to come together as a country and the need for us to understand each other is very great. But so is the need for leaders to denounce violence in every form.

Earlier this afternoon Presiding Bishop Curry led us in p[rayers and we have shared those with you, and I invite you to use those throughout this evening as well as in the days to come.

Tonight, I bid you to hold one other close, to light a candle, and join together (virtually or socially distant) along with the Diocese of Maine, the Maine Council of Churches, with Maine congregations, people of faith, and people of goodwill at 7pm for a candlelight prayer vigil.

We will be standing together in the Spirit (even if we are alone on our front porch), unified by our love of neighbor and Creator and by our commitment to establishing a peaceful and just community and nation where grace, dignity, respect, truth and compassion are protected and preserved.

For now, let us pray.

Save us, O God, from violence, discord, and confusion; from pride and arrogance, and from every evil way. When things are dark either in our own lives or in the life of our nation, stir our memory of those who have long-hoped in your Son, Jesus, those who found in him and his cross and rising again, a peace that surpasses understanding. At the same time, as you make us remember, equip us with the courage to work together to make everything and everybody shine with the new splendor of peace and harmony. We pray in your holy names, Amen.

And now, may the blessing of God Almighty, the Creator, the Christ and the Holy Spirit be upon you and remain with you this night and forevermore. Amen.
