

“A Loving Community Resists Christian Nationalism”

The July 6th, 2025 Message by Elio Farley

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The United States is not a Christian country. If it was, we would have universal healthcare. We would feed the hungry, house the homeless. We would not worship the false idols of incarceration, militarism, and money.

We are not a Christian country, but we are rapidly becoming a Christian Nationalist county. When I talk about Christian Nationalism, I’m talking about the ideology that perverts Christianity for racial domination, celebrates murderous policy, and accelerates hell on earth.

Christian Nationalism is in deep contradiction to Christianity. As such, the secular world cannot adequately address it because Christian Nationalism is not an intellectual problem. It is a moral injury.

I respect that our congregation does not speak much about a Christian understanding of God. I think that is our way of not contributing to Christian dominance, which I definitely appreciate. Saying this, Christianity is a foundational part of how I understand the divine, and I hope you will indulge my invoking of that tradition. I’m no longer a Catholic, but I am still faithful.

The obsession of modern white American Christianity is this use of reductionist mythology to green light a culturally-consuming political ideology. These portrayals of Jesus as white? The argument that women can’t get an abortion in case they’re carrying the second coming of Christ? The visual of Jesus as a warrior and not a teacher, at a time when military funding is skyrocketing and public education is being obliterated?

This is not the first time American Christianity has been misused for racial subjugation. I think of the Doctrine of Discovery, the Papal decree that this stolen land belongs to European Christians. I think of slave bibles, Bibles used to convert enslaved Africans to Christianity, Bibles that excluded Exodus and other stories of liberation, and instead emphasized passages that proclaim enslavement as God’s will.

I want to talk about the Constitution. For our country has not yet lived up to its promises. Our foundations in genocide, enslavement, and land theft persist. We are an empire.

Freedom of religion requires freedom from religion. We do not have that. Not when the Bible serves as legislative justification for the elimination of bodily autonomy. Not when rights and liberties are being stripped in the name of God.

Americans are convinced we're the bastion of freedom, but what is free about setting aside \$170 billion dollars to kidnap and imprison people presumed to be immigrants? What is free about employment at the threat of homelessness? What is free about not being able to afford a doctor? What is free about being scared to hold your lover's hand? American freedom is a great aspiration that has never been realized.

State violence, increasingly in the form of incarceration, and civilian violence, particularly that of white supremacist militias, these are fascist tactics to annihilate freedom. Christian Nationalism, and the idol of making hell on earth through carceral punishment and genocidal militarism, is the spiritual fuel of modern American fascism. And yes, I mean modern. Americans conveniently forget how Nazis were inspired by our apartheid against African Americans and ongoing genocides of Indigenous peoples.

My mentor, the anti-gender movement feminist scholar, Dr. Laurie Essig, often explains how fascism requires the creation of an internal and external enemy. In this era of fascist USA, trans and genderqueer people are the constructed internal enemy. Immigrants and undocumented people are the external enemy.

Fascism is not loving.

God flows through every being, and I know Love in my neighbors and in the children massacred by our nation. I know the Spirit in my transness, and feel graced by our Creator that I get to share in this gift of creation. I witness God in the sacrificing love that compels someone to come here,

and I know in every fiber of my being that pluralism is evidence of the divine.

Us UUs do not hold authority over what is blasphemous. There are wonderful Christian theologians who can properly argue that Christian Nationalism is a perversion of scripture. I am barely a Christian, and definitely not a theologian. I can, however, speak to Love, which remains my primary connection to the Divine.

UUs believe in the inherent worth and **dignity** of every person. Christian supremacy betrays that notion. It is wrong to manufacture hell on earth for billions so a few can be “saved” in Christ’s second coming. End-times fascists invoke God’s name while betraying the divine’s abundant love. I honor that many of us are not Christian. Those of us that are must clearly declare that Jesus was a Palestinian Jew, a poor refugee assassinated for organizing against the Roman Empire. We must declare that Love is our legacy. The Love that resists empire, the Love whose power cannot be squashed by death. Those of us who are not Christians, whose faithful convictions lead us to a life of justice, we must work across faiths, honor our diversity as necessary and beautiful, and know that only when the secular and faithful worlds coalition can we adequately address the existential threat of Christian Nationalism.

If racial supremacy and domestic hell is the goal of Christian Nationalism, accelerationism is its secular tech-broliarch counterpart, and Christian Zionism is how we bring hell to the Holy Land to usher in the second coming of Christ.

Christian Zionism is the theological reason our country is funding the genocide of Palestinians.

None of this is loving. None of this is loving.

It must be stated plainly that these forces exist in opposition to multi-faith, particularly Muslim and Jewish, safety. The goal of Christian Zionism is to create the conditions of armageddon. Destroy the world so the Savior will save the few. People of faith must know that this violence is not loving.

Christian supremacy is a moral injury. We cannot, in our right conscience, create the conditions of an end-time prophecy.

Unitarian Universalism, our prophetic legacy, thoroughly rejects hell. An all-loving God would not create hell. Why are we so willing to create hell for each other?

We must not comply with christofascism, neither in our congregations, traditions, nor in the presumed secular world. That takes bravery. That takes a conscious commitment to solidarity and collective safety over individual comfort.

True noncompliance is conflict, not concession.

It's honestly useful how quickly joyful noncompliance is misunderstood. My friends and I shut down an anti-trans hate group meeting at the statehouse, being featured on Fox News and Libs of TikTok. As our tactic was a dance party, we were dismissed as "dancing transgender hecklers." We were grabbed, spat on, and threatened. Our action was successful, we shut down that hate meeting, but bearing witness to hatred was painful. We got off doxx-free because dancing is not a real threat. Our joy is not an actual protest tactic.

The original name of this service was 'Dancing Beyond Patriotism,' Liam's clever play on my notoriously joyful protest tactic. Joy in *itself* is not protest. Joy is noncompliance in the face of annihilation. I leverage joy as a tactic, so those of us who understand political action as democratic engagement feel comfortable enough to act alongside those of us who know political action to be a tool of survival. Many of yall won't join in wheatpasting, but will chalk messages. Some of yall won't join a blockade, but will join a dance party. Some of yall will avoid a counter protest, even ceding a space that you had the numbers to hold, but will join a rainbow wall to physically take the space that fascists covet. Joy is a **tactic** to bring more people in, to make proper noncompliance possible in the face of fear.

A street medic once taught me that the #1 weapon of the police is fear. That truth applies to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), militias,

and anyone else whose power comes from the threat of death and incarceration.

At the (UUA) General Assembly this year, the Rev. Ranwa Hammamy shared that we “hold a prophetic, moral position in direct opposition to the death machines of authoritarianism and fascism.”

We must hold close to what lets us overcome fear. Whatever that is, lean in, let it propel action. Let it fuel brave defiance.

What we understand as possible *has* to evolve.

We hold deep theological commitments to the inherent worth and dignity of each and every person. We practice an annoyingly aspirational faith, one that we have barely glimpsed the potential of.

We need a clear alternative to Christian Nationalism, and must collectively hold a moral imperative to resist the violence that this era accelerates. It is up to the people to do this. We are not powerless: in every attempt at violence lives a potential for intervention and redirection.

Each person must take responsibility for the safety and for the freedom of their community.

The great poet ismatu gwendolyn once asked “do you actually want to wait until the flood comes to know your neighbors?”

May we know the presence of the divine in each of us. May the presence of the divine greet us in each neighbor, in each immigrant, in each trans person, and in every single life we’ve been taught to sacrifice at the altar of domination. Love does not dominate. Love frees.

For we are called to love. Love is a verb. Love is a deeply political act. Love is embodied prayer. Love is freedom. Blessed be.

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