

## Keep At It

Rev. Dr. Mindy Sloan

I am not sure exactly what she said, or if she said anything at all. Stephanie Kinman, a woman with whom I worked, was out with her friend on a beautiful Friday night. It was another typically lovely September 25<sup>th</sup> evening in San Diego. A perfect night for an outdoor dinner at a local restaurant and a walk through the neighborhood, particularly after months of covid restrictions. Lots of people were out that night, taking advantage of an opportunity to socialize. But not everyone was feeling a positive sense of shared community. It seems that Stephanie and her friend got into a fight with another couple. The details have not been made public, but it seems that at least one person decided to escalate the situation. Stephanie and her friend had left the restaurant and were walking to their car. A man decided to follow them. Stephanie was getting into her car as the man approached, pointed a gun, and shot her. She died almost immediately.

Stephanie leaves behind co-workers, friends, family, and a 7-year old son, Gibson, who loves her very much.

I don't know what Stephanie said that made someone think she needed to die. I do know that Stephanie was a social worker who supported students who were in the military. I know that she was passionate about her country, those who serve our country, and those who are seeking to improve their lives through education. I cannot imagine what could justify or even remotely explain her needless execution. It makes no sense and solves no problem for the killer or anyone else.

But it should wake us up. It reminds me of how important it is to bring light and love into our world. At some point it seems that many of us decided not to get along. To focus on what makes us different, rather than what we have in common. And to hold those differences against one another. So, let's do things differently. Join me.

Today and every day I am making a commitment to be the change that I want to see in the world. To remember to set my intent, open-up to the Creator, and allow myself to be used for highest and best. Healing for Stephanie's son who will experience a lifetime of loss. Healing for those, like Stephanie, who are hurt or killed for who they are, what they believe, or what they express. Healing for our leaders so that they find the words and actions to bring us closer together. Healing to those killers and abusers who failed to make a better choice so that they see other options, and healing to those who may choose to hurt others in the future. There is time for them to change their ways.

We are open channels sending love wherever and whenever it is needed. We are members of our communities who listen to diverse views, seek to learn from others, and love unconditionally. We are family members who hug our loved ones a little tighter and tell them how grateful we are to have them in our lives. We are flawed human beings who recognize that Creator is the answer and our choice is to be part of that solution. And we are people who will not give up. We know that we will make a difference and the world will be a better place if we just keep at it.

And so it is.

I am doing a Zoom message circle at 2:00 on Sunday, October 18<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to attend, please email me at [mindyjosloan@gmail.com](mailto:mindyjosloan@gmail.com) and I will send you the Zoom link.