



June 20, 2015

Mother Emanuel A.M.E. Church  
Charleston, SC

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

The hearts of the monks of Mepkin Abbey have embraced and surrounded you ever since we heard of the tragedy of the night of June 17. This deed, "beyond incomprehension", has been the subject of our prayer and tears and groanings. We stand with you and by your side as you grieve your loved ones and comfort one another with the balm of faith and your commitment to the love of the Lord Jesus.

You are an inspiration to all of us as your individual and Church response to this massacre has been to offer forgiveness to the one who has inflicted you with such heartbreak. This is what we hear in the Scriptures and in the Church day in and day out. Forgiveness and mercy are the first message of Jesus on the day of his Resurrection, as they were from his Cross. May your Light continue to shine brightly in all the darkness this tragedy has brought upon us. All we can say is "Thank You", "Thank You", "Thank You", for this incredible witness. May new life spring up for you, for our beloved City, Lowcountry and State from the seeds of Love you are planting with your words and actions. The Face of Christ has never shone out with more splendor. Through you, may Jesus inspire us to look deeply into our hearts, to confront the darkness, prejudice and hate we find there, and to work with all our energy to make our city and our state a place of reconciliation. A place where we see each other as brothers and sisters under the Fatherhood of God.

We pledge ourselves to work more closely with one of your daughter churches, Emmanuel A.M.E. of Cordesville, just a few miles down the road from our Abbey, to make this a reality in our local community here.

We pledge our support as well to you, Mother Emanuel, in whatever way we may help.

Your brothers in the Lord Jesus,