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Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

As we awoke this morning we heard the terrible news that London had been rocked by a series of apparently coordinated explosions. The terror that engulfed that city's citizens threw many of us right back to a Tuesday morning, nearly four years ago, when the World Trade Center was destroyed in another terrorist attack.

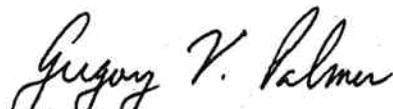
For United Methodists, London is a spiritual center. Brother John Wesley spent the closing years of his life there. Wesley Chapel bears his name as, even today, it continues his faithful tradition of ministry. Brother John and his devoted band of "Methodists," known then as the "Holy Club" reached out to the widows, orphans, disposed, and otherwise desperate sisters and brothers in the London streets nearly three centuries ago. Our spirit-filled heritage of lay leadership and preaching began at the Foundry, an old cannon factory that had been converted into a peaceful place of witness to the love of Jesus Christ.

Today, we join the world community in its outrage at the intentional carnage in London's subways and on its streets. Our hearts go out to the families of those who have been lost in this early morning attack. We pray for healing for the injured and for strength for the emergency services and medical personnel who are, even now, caring for so many.

I urge you, today, to live by the words of St. Paul, who, in his letter to the Church in Rome, said, "*Do not repay anyone evil for evil...If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all...Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.*" [Romans 12.17, 18, 21]

Let us pray, and intentionally work, for a world in which the anger and evil that infects some is cured by the witness and hands-on healing of the overwhelming love of Jesus Christ. I am,

Yours in Christ,

  
† Gregory V. Palmer

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