



GREATER MT. CALVARY HOLY CHURCH

610 RHODE ISLAND AVE NE. WASHINGTON, DC 20002
GMCHC.ORG | 202-529-4547

August 15, 2025

Dear Family,

Our city is more than streets and buildings, it's our home, our history, and our heartbeat. In times like these, when outside forces seek to make decisions for us without our voice, we are reminded that God has called us to be a light in the world and to stand together in love, truth, and unity.

The recent move to bring federal control over DC's local law enforcement and deploy troops into our streets is deeply concerning. It challenges our city's ability to govern itself and risks increasing fear in communities that already carry the heavy weight of injustice. Meanwhile, programs that provide critical support to our youth, protect our most vulnerable, and offer care for our homeless neighbors have faced cuts or neglect. True safety will never come from intimidation, it comes from investing in our young people, providing opportunities instead of despair, and making sure no one is left without shelter or hope.

For nearly 60 years, Greater Mount Calvary Holy Church has been part of the fabric of Washington, DC. We've worshipped together, worked for change together, and stood with our neighbors in both joy and hardship. That commitment has not changed.

In times of challenge and tension, we must resist the urge to react in anger, even when emotions run high. The world is watching, not just what we say, but how we respond. True leaders demonstrate emotional intelligence, rise above hostility, and lead with grace, wisdom, and compassion. Let us talk to, comfort, guide, and undergird our young people, showing them a way forward and speaking to their brokenness, fear, and rage, bringing them hope and healing.

So I'm asking you to pray for our city and region. Support one another. Speak out for what is right. Show kindness to those who are hurting. Be a living example that God's light still shines, even when the days feel dark.

As Scripture reminds us in Isaiah 1:17, *"Learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression; bring justice to the fatherless, plead the widow's cause."* This is our call, and this is our charge.

We love DC, and we believe in its people. Together, with God's help, we can protect its future, its freedom, and its most vulnerable.

Because of Calvary,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rodney L. Carter, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

Pastor Rodney L. Carter, Jr., Lead Pastor

PASTOR RODNEY L. CARTER, JR. LEAD PASTOR

BISHOP ALFRED A. OWENS, JR. FOUNDING PASTOR | DR. SUSIE C. OWENS, CO-PASTOR-EMERITUS