**Because He Lives…I can face tomorrow!**

You have to ask yourself, with all the bad “stuff” going on around us, it’s really hard to be of good cheer. I’m reminded of the song “Ball of Confusion” by the Temptations from 1970. I know…I’m dating myself now. I listened to it recently and found that, by just a minor adjustment regarding the Beatles, it could have been broadcast on today’s news and would apply to today’s culture.

As I write this, over the past week we have seen so much confusion, violence, and hatred in our country. Charlie Kirk, a well-known Christian conservative, who was exercising his right to free speech was assassinated by a person who disagreed with him. A young woman in N Carolina was randomly stabbed to death in a subway for no reason. A school shooting. And, then another shooting in Pennsylvania where three police officers were killed.

I’ve just had two requests from people that were feeling very anxious about the things going on and looking for some hope in the middle of all this and asking for prayer. In my attempts to comfort them I referred to Jesus’ words in the gospel of John:

***“I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.” John 16:33***

There was another song written about the same year as “Ball of Confusion”. Bill and Gloria Gaither wrote “Because He Lives (I can face tomorrow)” during a time of great uncertainty, social upheaval, and wars. A moment of divine intervention brought Gloria peace, and the experience of holding their newborn son solidified their faith that, because Christ is risen, life and future are secure in God’s hands, allowing them to face any uncertainty with confidence.

Ginny and I actually had that song sung for our wedding, as we placed our future in God’s hands, knowing that there is no better or secure place to be, than trusting in Jesus.

We need not fear as the Bible says:

**“*There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear.” 1 John 4:18***

So, yes, we can be confident, because we have hope…we have a Savior. And as Christians, lets continue to spread that hope in our church, our community and into a world that so desperately needs it!