

Dear Church,

It was only late last night, after finally arriving back home after the [Remembering Sri Lanka vigil](#) that it hit me. I was looking at photos of our gathering. We printed 200 programs, based on the Facebook responses, and ran out quite early. What a good problem to have, Church! When God provides more people than you thought! We guessed there were between 250 and 300 people gathered on Boston Common to grieve and pray. I was looking at the photos of the gathered body- Sri Lankans, and Americans, Christians, Buddhists, Hindus, Jews, Muslims, and people of good will, Sinhalese and Tamil, children and elders and everyone in between. Then it hit me.

We were about the same number of people gathered on Boston Common, [as the number of people killed in Sri Lanka](#).

This vision took my breath away. And I felt a profound connectedness to people whom I would never meet, Christian kin and members of the human family, half a world away.

A tragedy like this can be an abstraction, if we ourselves aren't personally affected. Sri Lanka is far away. Some of us may know very little or have little connection to this island country. Though Christians were targeted, the wideness of the Body of Christ can sometimes lead us to feel far from the wounded parts. But this I know, the Body of Christ was wounded when three Christian communities, Protestant and Roman Catholic, were targeted.

Our Christian faith is incarnate. I am profoundly grateful for all who showed up last night in body. We believe in God who so longed for intimacy with us as to become human in Jesus Christ, to know our weariness and limitations. The Almighty shows solidarity with us by becoming human. I know that solidarity means most in person, when we too are incarnate. Thank you.

Last night, as we gathered for prayers, and then gathered for Ceylon tea at St. Paul's Cathedral afterwards, I could feel how important it was to gather in body.

As we sipped tea and asked how folks were doing, a Sri Lankan Hindu woman came up to me to thank me again and again for "doing this for the Sri Lankan community." Church, I told her, the Massachusetts Council of Churches did this not just for the Sri Lankan community, but for us, the body of Christ, too. I am profoundly grateful for new colleagues at the [Sri Lanka Association of New England](#), who I met for just the first time on Easter Monday.

On your behalf, I'm going to visit the [New England Tamil Church](#) for their healing service on Sunday. I will bring your condolences with me. See below for how you can add your support.

Today, I visit with MCC member denomination [East Coast Conference of the Evangelical Covenant Church](#), gathered for their Annual Meeting in Springfield. Tonight, I worship with Orthodox Christians at [Saints Anargyroi Greek Orthodox Church](#), gathered for Good Friday service of lamentation. On Sunday, I'm with the [New England Tamil Church](#). The Body is wide, even when wounded.

In peace,
Rev. Laura