

**Remarks of Rev. Jesse Jackson  
At the Sukkat Shalom Community Prayer Service for Healing and Comfort  
Monday, October 29, 2018**

I have come tonight to say that you are not alone. We share this pain together. Loads are lighter when they are shared together. I was in Dallas, Texas, on Saturday morning when this massacre occurred, near where Kennedy was killed in 1963. There we had stopped with some Jewish allies; we mourned and we prayed. Well, the massacre in Pittsburgh.

Last week with the pipe bomb scares we saw the shadows of evil—I hear David saying “Though we walk through the valley of the shadow of death we fear no evil.” Well, Saturday, in Pittsburgh, we saw evil face to face. We also saw evil face to face in Charleston, South Carolina, in the Emanuel AME Church. They shot up our churches; they shot up our synagogues; we saw evil face to face.

But down the stretch, Blacks and Jews have always turned to each other: and not only today. In the deepest, darkest hours of slavery, Jewish allies were among the abolitionists. The NAACP was founded in Niagara, New York—because they couldn’t find a place in New York City— and Jews had their handprint on the original document. We’ve always been there together. In the 60’s, we mourned for the martyrdom of Freedom Riders Schwerner, Chaney, and Goodman. Their shared blood made us better and stronger through it all.

So I say to you, my brothers my sisters, let’s turn to each other in a very special way tonight. What we hear from the White House is more gas for more fire... “If we’d just had a pistol, we could have been saved.” I don’t believe that. I think that the rain is coming from the top. If somebody keeps on, there may be more rain. There might be showers, there might be a storm. So let us gird our loins.

I hear Job saying, challenging our faith when it is tested: “Though You slay me, ere I trust in You. My Lord and my Redeemer lives within my soul.” Another writer gives us a recommendation and says that: “My people, called by My name, will arm themselves and pray...and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways. I’ll forgive their sin and hear from heaven.”

It is healing time. It is hope time. We love you, and love that we could be a part of this blessed ceremony. You can count us in every step of the way—because my sense is that this is not over. We need each other tonight. We’ll need each other tomorrow, until this darkness passes over. It’s like rain, a storm that keeps on raining. But with God’s help, we’ll survive this—we’ll survive it together. Thank you and God bless you.