

I don't know everyone's political leanings nor how you are feeling after the election  
But I can tell you that I'm very sad  
This doesn't feel OK to me

Over the last few weeks and months, I've been feeling open, expansive and welcoming  
But now I find myself closing down and withdrawing  
I'll be ok—just me  
Or you and me—we'll be ok  
It's an individualized sense of protection that shuts out the greater struggle  
Then I felt the shift to denial and moving on—because that's what I do in hard times  
I do what I need to do—the task in front of me

BUT I choose to stay open and welcome others  
I choose to stay connected  
I choose to stand with those who feel disenfranchised  
I choose to "have their back"  
I choose to wear a safety pin as a message that I care about their vulnerability  
I choose to have conversations, even hard ones  
I choose to embrace those who disagree with me  
To love everyone  
Jesus said "love your enemies"  
I'm pretty sure he also means love those who disagree with us

I choose to stay in love—I choose not to live in fear—I choose Fear Not!

In difficult times, I remember that we begin to find way forward by telling the truth  
Tell the truth of the situation and how I'm doing in that situation  
Also—tell the truth about God

We know that all things work together for good... Romans 8:28  
Remember the story of Joseph—horrible stuff happened to him  
His brothers sold him into slavery, people lied and sent him to jail  
But God used it to bring love, redemption, and reconciliation  
Not only for Joseph, but the Israelites were saved from famine and starvation  
God is constantly at work to redeem even the worst of all situations

We have been invited to join in that work of redemption  
*God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation. 2 Cor. 5:18*  
We don't know what will unfold, but we do know we will be Led  
We can be faithful in this, as in all situations—but it will be more costly

I was struck by this Quaker Speak video...

<http://quakerspeak.com/quaker-vision-political-activism/>

*"... understanding what it means for Quakers to be engaged in prophetic work, that we can touch that experience of everybody's chains coming off and then we stand and we wait in the broken prison and we bring that message to others, and invite others to live in that reality as well."*