

## Message from President Surridge

January 8, 2021

Dear North Park University Community:

Earlier this week, amidst pandemic and polarization, our nation's Capitol was besieged and taken over, disrupting the formal proceedings of the U.S. Congress and resulting in the loss of human life.

As Americans, we uniquely agree to respect and adhere to our democratic process and the will of the people as spoken through our elections – to uphold our U.S. Constitution, and support the peaceful transition of power.

As North Parkers, we pursue our educational mission of preparing students for lives of significance and service, through learning and discovery in an environment that seeks Jesus, respects truth, and values difference.

And as people who cherish dignity and value human life, we reject the use of violence as an expression of protest.

As an educational community, rooted in Christian faith, how can we seek and hold fast to hope during disrupting times?

By remembering that Wednesday was also the Feast of the Epiphany, the day we celebrate the revelation of God incarnate in Jesus Christ. We thank God for the gift of Jesus and for the community of North Park University - where we seek His grace and claim His mercies that are new every morning. We must continue to pray for the health and safety of our students, peace in our nation, and wisdom and humility in leadership.

On Thursday evening, Dr. John S. Wenrich, president of the Evangelical Covenant Church, issued this [Call for Peace and Unity](#).

At North Park we will embrace our responsibility to model respectful dialogue, discovery and discernment as we continue to learn and grow in supporting one another in our educational community. And we will affirm the mission and values we together embrace, moving forward with courage and optimism. Please join me in praying for God's mercy - and health and healing in our land.

Mary K. Surridge

President