

*“I was a stranger and you welcomed me.” — Matthew 25:35*

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

Good afternoon. I’m the Rev. Kurt Walker.

As a member of the Christian clergy, I am bound by an ethic that is not vague and not optional. The God I proclaim hears the cry of the oppressed. The love I preach takes the side of the vulnerable. The Gospel I serve does not permit me to look away when people are harmed, targeted, or made afraid. Jesus did not build community by terrorizing people. He did not teach us to rank human worth by paperwork, skin color, accent, or neighborhood. He drew the circle wider—always—and he calls us to do the same.

That is why I say today, plainly and without apology: I reject immigration enforcement carried out through deadly violence and fear, through broad racialized suspicion, and through intimidation. I reject tactics that turn whole neighborhoods and schools into hunting grounds. Whatever one believes about immigration law, terrorizing communities is not compatible with the God of mercy. It is not compatible with the Christ who welcomed the stranger. It is not compatible with the Spirit who breaks down dividing walls.

So let us be clear:

I call for an end to secret policing—the masking, the intimidation, the surveillance-driven targeting of communities. When armed agents hide their faces, use unmarked tactics, and create confusion about who is exercising legitimate authority, it breeds panic, mistrust, and danger. And it invites the worst impulses in a society already straining with fear.

This is a moral issue. It is a spiritual issue.

To my broader community: this moment is asking us what we will tolerate—and what we will repair. I am calling on all of us to choose repair. Choose courage. Choose solidarity. Choose love—not as a sentiment, but as a public practice: show up, speak up, make room, offer protection, and refuse to participate in fear.

Unified by Love, we speak and stand. And we will keep speaking and standing until dignity is protected, truth is spoken, and justice is done. Thank you.