Dear Friends.

A friend, who was recently diagnosed with cancer, was given a choice of treatment by his physician. After assuring my friend that he had a very good chance of survival with surgery, the doctor instructed: "Now your job is to take care of yourself. Continue to eat right, exercise daily, and life your life. It will make my job and your recovery all the more easy."

As a congregation of well informed, critically observant individuals, I don't have to tell you about the present state of our country. Wherever you place yourself on the political spectrum, we can all agree that the world is not where we'd like it to be. And so we will continue to lobby, to advocate and to march to advance the causes in which we believe, and to protest against the injustices that we see. We know that it will take time to aright our great Ship of State. In the interim, we must remain strong and hopeful and respectful of one another. In an uncivil society, behaving civilly is in itself an act of rebellion.

Applying my friend's doctor's advice to our national condition, let us continue to live our lives with care and integrity as we fight the struggles that history demands of us in order to advance our Nation's healing for which we all hope. May it come soon.

With warmth and faith,