

HOW WILL WE STAND?



<sup>13</sup>“You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot. <sup>14</sup>“You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden. <sup>15</sup>Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. <sup>16</sup>In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

Matthew 5:13-16 (NIV)

<sup>9</sup>For we know in part and we prophesy in part, <sup>10</sup>but when completeness comes, what is in part disappears. <sup>11</sup>When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me. <sup>12</sup>For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known. <sup>13</sup>And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

1 Corinthians 13:9-13 (NIV)



## We Stand by Faith

And now these three remain: ***faith***, hope and love.  
But the greatest of these is love.



# **We Stand by Faith**

Our Faith is in the Truth and Power of God's Word.



## We Stand in Hope

And now these three remain: faith, **hope** and love.  
But the greatest of these is love.



## **We Stand in Hope**

Hope is a joyful expectation that God will graciously fulfill all that He's promised us.



“If I find in myself a desire which no experience in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that I was made for another world.”

–C.S. Lewis, Mere Christianity





<sup>1</sup>Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth,” for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. <sup>2</sup>I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. <sup>3</sup>And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God.

Revelation 21:1-5 (NIV)



<sup>4</sup>“He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death’ or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.” <sup>5</sup>He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!” Then he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.”

Revelation 21:1-5 (NIV)



## We Stand in Love

And now these three remain: faith, hope and **love**.  
But the greatest of these is **love**.



## **We Stand in Love**

Love is God's unconditional and sacrificial commitment to our salvation and abundance.



"All the News  
That's Fit to Print"

# The New York Times

Late Edition

Today, some sun, clouds, a couple of afternoon showers likely, high 73. Tonight, rain and a thunderstorm, low 67. Tomorrow, heavy rain, thunder, high 81. Weather map, Page C8.

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## 'I Will Never Be Able to Hold Her Again. But I Forgive You.'

### Raw Emotion as Victims' Kin Address Charleston Suspect

By NIKITA STEWART and RICHARD PÉREZ-PEÑA

CHARLESTON, S.C. — One by one, they looked to the screen in a corner of the courtroom on Friday, into the expressionless face of the young man charged with making them motherless, snuffing out the life of a promising son, taking away a loving wife for good, bringing a grandmother's life to a horrific end. And they answered him with forgiveness.

"You took something very precious away from me," said Nadine Collier, daughter of 70-year-old Ethel Lance, her voice rising in anguish. "I will never talk to her ever again. I will never be able to hold her again. But I forgive you. And have mercy on your soul."

The occasion was a bond hearing, the first court appearance of the suspect, Dylann Roof, for the murders, thought to be racially motivated, of nine black men and women during Bible study at Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church on Wednesday night.

It was as if the Bible study had never ended as one after another, victims' family members offered lessons in forgiveness, testaments to a faith that is not compromised by violence or grief. They urged him to repent, confess his sins and turn to God.

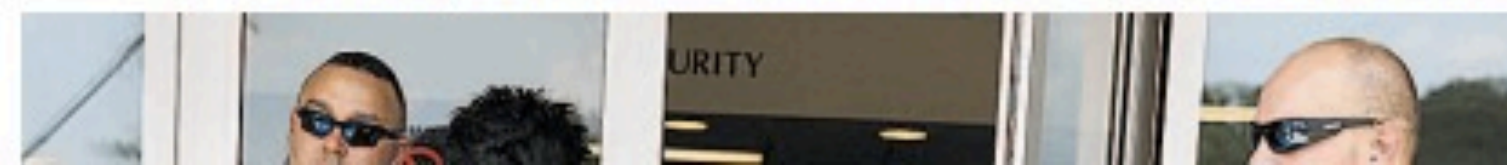
"We welcomed you Wednesday night in our Bible study with open arms," said Felicia Sanders, the mother of 26-year-old Tywanza Sanders, a poet who died after trying to save his aunt, who was also killed.

"You have killed some of the most beautiful people that I know," she said in a quavering voice. "Every fiber in my body hurts, and I will never be the same. Tywanza Sanders is my son, but Tywanza was my hero. Tywanza was my hero. But as we say in Bible study, we enjoyed you. But may God have mercy on you."

The statements offered a moment of grace in a day when new details emerged about a massacre that has



Dylann Roof, 21, appeared on a video link in court during a bond hearing on Friday. At right, relatives of the church victims.



ABOVE, GRACE BEAHM/THE POST AND COURIER, VIA ASSOCIATED PRESS; BELOW, JOE RAEDLE/GETTY IMAGES

## **How We Will Pray:**

- That the Church will be a light
- That our Children will know the truth
- That our Leaders will decide for righteousness

