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Healing from the Trauma

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

Lutheran Church in northeast Portland at the invitation of Multnomah County Commissioner Loretta Smith, the only elected member in city or county government from Portland's African American community. About two dozen local religious leaders of all faiths and races joined them at the podium along with some 50 other attendees.

Jackson suggested that local leaders organize a massive, peaceful, and multicultural march to help deliver the message that the Portland will not allow violence to be the brand of the city. He described the passengers who sacrificed their lives to protect the young girls as very brave.

"There is a challenge today and we must rise to the occasion," Jackson said. "The vicious killing of the martyrs reminds us how deep the wound is, how much sickness there is and how much work there is to be done. In the face of it all, we must turn to each other and learn to live together."

The national civil rights icon went on to describe the many serious struggles ahead for people of color, workers, women and children across America, calling

out issues such as education cuts, criminal justice rollbacks and states limiting voting rights.

"We must not fight fire with fire, it makes the fire hotter. Fight fire with water," he said.

On the current political climate in Washington, D.C., Jackson pointed to a "counter-cultural revolution," which seeks to undermine the founding principles of democracy.

"America's revolution is give me your tired, your hungry masses. To lock out the immigrants, to lock out the refugees, to lock out all of Central and South America, this is a counter-cultural revolution," he said. "To privatize jails and close public schools, this is a counter-cultural revolution."

Jackson called for unity in the struggles ahead.

"Regardless of whether our skin is black, white or brown we need each other and we must turn to each other," he said.

Jackson took an overnight flight from San Francisco to arrive in Portland for the breakfast meeting at Augustana Lutheran. The guests included many local activists as well as members from several religious traditions, including leaders from Christian, Muslim, Jewish, Buddhist, Sikh, and Native American groups.

A small gospel-jazz duo played

Sam Cooke's Civil Right's anthem "A Change is Gonna Come." Several faith leaders spoke to the trauma of the attacks and how to move forward in the current national political climate.

Commissioner Smith, Augustana Pastor Mark Knutson and Dr. Rev. T Allen Bethel, senior pastor at Maranatha Church and president of the Albina Ministerial Alliance introduced Jackson.

"The tragedy that happened here a week ago today is so unthinkable. People are still trying to reconcile what they think about it," said Smith

Before taking questions from members of the press, the gospel-jazz duo returned with a heartfelt performance of "Keep Your Eyes on the Prize" with Jackson, Smith and the faith leaders joining together in song.

Jackson's next stops were meeting with Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler and with Micah Fletcher, the 21 year old Portland State University student hero who survived the tragedy.

The victims killed were retired Army veteran and city employee Rick Best, 53, and recent Reed College graduate Taliesin Myrdin Namkai Meche, 23. Jeremy Joseph Christian, 35, of north Portland has been charged with aggravated murder in their deaths.



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Dueling Protests

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

ly-owned Terry Schunk Plaza, which faces both City Hall and the Edith Green - Wendell Wyatt Federal Building. In response to the alt-right's demonstration, a loose collection of labor unions, immigrant rights groups and anti-fascist organizations showed up to protest the presence of white nationalist groups in Portland. The counter-demonstration took place in neighboring Chapman Square, and was permitted by the City of Portland.

Officers from the Portland Police Bureau, the Oregon State Police and the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Protective Service were present at the opposing rallies. Police made 14 arrests throughout the course of Sunday afternoon, and deployed crowd control munitions include flash-bang grenades, pepper spray and rubber bullets into Chapman Square. Police also seized dozens of weapons, including brass knuckles, make-shift shields and several bricks.



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