Sermon Notes: Rev. Rachel Gilmore The Gathering, UMC. Virginia Beach June 21, 2015

"Charleston" Psalms 46:1

- I. What happened in Charleston?
- II. Why do bad things happen?
 - a. The people are being punished by God for evil behavior (Noah and the flood and Sodom and Gomorrah)
 - b. Evil people are punishing others
 - i. The down-side of free will
 - ii. Could we ever do evil things?
 - 1. Crusades
 - 2. Native Americans
 - 3. Japanese internment camps
 - 4. Auschwitz
 - 5. Segregated south and history of AME church
- III. What should our Christian response to evil be?
 - a. To learn:
 - i. That the God who gave us emotions is strong enough to help us process them
 - ii. That God will be with us when everyone else has gone
 - iii. We need to DO something about issues like racism in our world.