

The Danville News
Robert John Andrews
27 October, 2022
“In Whose Image?”
Word Count: 750

On Saturday, 8 October, I spoke at a rally on Mill Street. What follows is an edited excerpt.

Dear Voters: It really is a choice. This election will decide in whose image we wish our country to be made.

Do we want it to be made in the image of cruel white supremacists, anti-Semites, Christian nationalists? I don't think so. I ask this as an authentic evangelical.

Do we want it to be made in the image of Mastriano, Oz, Meuser, of election denial, and obsolete Trumpism? Imagine the punitive legislation that'll result if they are in charge. Do the research. Fetterman, Shapiro, Waldman are the candidates who support law and order. We support these common sense, kitchen table candidates.

Do we want it to be made in the image of Roger Stone, Alex Jones, Steve Bannon? Do we want it to be made in the image of petulant, insecure, over-compensating males who go by the name Proud Boys, Oath Keepers? Do we want it to be made in the image of those pathetic Q-Anon puppets and their hateful hemorrhoidal conspiracy follies? Do we want it to be made in the image of those perverting Christianity into a tool for abusive power, prejudice, dominance, who intentionally ignore the righteous tenets of the golden rule, of the prophet Micah's words to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God, of Jesus' sermon on the mount? The Trumpist party of family values? Since when? Do we want it to be made in the image of Congressional frat boys who criminalize a woman's freedom to seek spiritual and medical care regarding her pregnancy?

Do we want it to be made in the pessimistic image of obstructionists who ban books, muzzle teachers, whose main purpose in life is to 'own the libs,' who can only whine and blame while refusing to negotiate needed solutions to our serious challenges. Talk about abdication of duty! Thank God Joe Biden is President and Kamala Harris Vice-president. Worse, unprincipled Republicans seek to dismantle the very constitutional engine by which America's solutions are driven. Is all they can muster disdain? What do they stand for? Or are vain, petty, cultural wars all they know how to wage? We already see where they are going. One side says this is how you must behave and what you must believe. This other side protects the freedom of how you may act and think. Do we want to be made in the image of those who seek to control or those who seek to serve?

Which is why I will vote for Shapiro, Fetterman, Waldman, Mock. Against a rascal minority, they take positive steps toward a successful, prosperous future and a mature foreign policy fighting for Western democracy. The ends are 'pre-existent in the means.' We do not misconstrue liberty as license. We're freed so we may live worthy lives. Our universe, the truest Republican, Abraham Lincoln, firmly believed, is the theatre for the working out of the moral law, dedicated to a great redemptive work.

November 8th offers a clear choice between a positive, hopeful future, and a commonwealth and country made in the image of those who imperil us by discrediting high principles, sabotaging our republic. We grieve them and their self-serving aims. They're not my enemies. They are my brothers and sisters.

Dear Republicans: I address real Republicans, some of whom must still be out there willing to listen. You know how those in control of your party have renounced true conservatism. I hope you can find it in you to set aside your partisanship and enter the voting booth and save America by casting your ballot for the optimistic Democratic candidates who give us a chance of living peaceably, justly, kindly. What profit to gain the world and forfeit your soul?

But, dear true Republicans, if you find it in you not to be able to vote for the sensible and competent Democratic candidates, at least do your conscience a favor and step aside and refuse to vote for those candidates who have fallen far from traditional Republican values. Blunt the violence they practice. Write in the name of Tom Ridge or John McCain. Remind your party of what integrity once meant. Will Rogers advised, you really don't have to drink downstream from the herd.

Dear Democrats: If you don't stand and fight and show up we get the country and the future nobody deserves.

What will our children's children say of us at this, our hour?

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The transcript of the full speech can be found on The Reverend Andrews' website:  
[www.robertjohnandrews.com](http://www.robertjohnandrews.com).

### Original unedited:

On Saturday, 8 October, I was privileged to address a rally on Mill Street. What follows is the full text of my speech.

*"I'm not a member of any organized party. I'm a Democrat." – Will Rogers*

Dear Democrats and real Republicans: It really is a choice. This election will decide in whose image we wish our country to be made.

Do we want it to be made in the image of young sick men murdering with an AR-15? I think not.

Do we want it to be made in the image of crass and cruel white supremacists, anti-Semites, Christian nationalists? I ask this as an authentic evangelical. I think not.

*White Nationalism is a sin-sick sin  
From which our nation must repent  
Strident prejudice and false pride in skin --  
Root out this unholy detriment*

*There can be no unity without us penitent  
Nor a chance unless idolatry of race perishes  
Nor a future when humanity waxes violent  
Nor a hope unless tough reverence flourishes*

*Taunting from fear, insecurity, victimhood  
Viewing with hatred the other as enemy  
Waving the confederate battle flag -- these bring no good  
Bringing shame upon America's Old Glory*

Do we want it to be made in the image of Mastriano and Oz? I think not. Imagine the punitive legislation that will result if they are in charge. We must do better. Get the facts, Jack! Do the research and see it is Fetterman, Shapiro, Waldman who support law and order, the rule of law. We support these common sense, kitchen table candidates. Mastriano might also wish to remember there were over 27,000 Pennsylvania Civil War casualties, soldiers in blue, fighting for freedom. Oz? Physician, heal thyself.

Do we want our country to be made in the image of our American version of the Iranian morality police? I think not.

Do we want it to be made in the image of Roger Stone, Alex Jones, Steve Bannon? I think not.

Do we want it to be made in the image of petulant, insecure, over-compensating males who go by the name of Proud Boys or Oath Keepers? I think not. Threats and cry havoc? Is that all you got? Bring it on, I'm from Jersey. Besides, I know who is my Lord and Savior.

Do we want it to be made in the image of those who perversely fawn over Putin or Orban as false gods, those who reject the iron of republican democracy while endorsing Styrofoam despotism and the denial of civil and human rights? I think not. Evil only has the power we give it.

*As Dr. Who said: "You know, the very powerful and the very stupid have one thing in common. They don't alter their views to fit the facts. They alter the facts to fit their views, which can be uncomfortable if you happen to be one of the facts that needs altering."*

Do we want it to be made in the image of yes men like Dan Meuser, too weak-kneed to stand fast to the truth about elections, about obsolete, cesspool Trumpism? I think not.

Now Saudi Arabia, OPEC, wants to bull us into supporting Trumpism by increasing gas prices. They're counting on us being lazy and spoilt.

Do we want it to be made in the image of those for whom power and control trumps election integrity and the will of the people. I think not.

Do we want it to be made in the image of those pathetic Q-Anon puppets and their hateful hemorrhoidal conspiracy follies? I think not.

Do we want it to be made in the image of those who pervert Christianity into a tool for abusive power, prejudice, dominance, who intentionally ignore the righteous tenets of the golden rule, of the prophet Micah's words to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with our God., of Jesus' sermon on the

mount? I think not. Ah, yes, the Trumpist party of family values. Since when? I think not. A noisy gong and a clanging cymbal.

Do we want it to be made in the image of those Congressional frat boys who criminalize a woman's freedom to seek spiritual and medical care regarding pregnancy? I think not.

Do we want it to be made in the pessimistic image of obstructionists who ban books, muzzle teachers, whose main purpose in life is to 'own the libs,' who can only whine and blame while refusing to negotiate needed solutions to immigration, transgendered young people health care, inflation, debt and deficit, poverty, the wealth gap, drug abuse, security on our streets and safety in our neighborhoods? I think not. They dodge rational discussion and debate – it'll hurt their fundraising and power grab. Talk about entitlement! Talk about abdication of duty! Thank God Joe Biden is President and Kamala Harris Vice-president.

Worse, they seek to dismantle the very constitutional engine by which America's solutions are driven. Is all they can muster: disdain?

What do they stand for? Or are vain, petty, cultural wars all they know how to wage? Spleens overruling minds and hearts sicken our body politic. We already see where they are going. One side says this is how you must behave and what you must believe. This other side protects the freedom of how you may act and think. Timshel, in Hebrew. Thou Mayest. The divine inalienable gift of choice and conscience. Thus: Do we want to be made in the image of those who seek to control or those who seek to serve?

Which is why I will vote the Democratic party line. Shapiro, Fetterman, Waldman are striving to solve our problems, along with those aiming to serve in Harrisburg. Against the odds of a rascal minority, they are taking positive steps toward a successful, prosperous future and mature foreign policy. The ends are 'pre-existent in the means.'

I stand before you as someone who chose to become a theologian and not a politician despite my ambitions, admiration, respect for politics and the role of government. In my religious tradition, the Reformed Tradition, the noblest and highest calling a person can receive from God is **not** to serve as an ordained pastor. No, no. It is to serve as a magistrate, in government, in politics. And thus secure the chance to do the most good for the people. God calls up those who value public service, servant leaders.

God punishes not. We punish ourselves. Malice, then, is inconsistent with God. Charity, then, is consistent with God's nature.

Regardless us, God will be God. Neither can we escape judgment upon our failure to be morally responsible, whether as individuals, parties, churches, states, nations.

History judges us.

**By dread deeds thou dost deliver us,  
O God of our salvation...**

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[I turned to the adjacent protestor] You are not my enemy. You are my brother in Christ [He then called me a hypocrite. He's right of course. I am. I at least admit it and am working on it]. I view them misguided, enthralled. They've allowed other magnets of selfish power to pull the needle of their moral compass away from true north.

Dear Republicans: I address real Republicans, some of whom must still be out there willing to listen. You know how those in control of your party have renounced true conservatism. I hope you can find it in you to set aside your scruples and go into the voting booth and save America by casting your ballot for the optimistic Democratic candidates who give us a chance of living peaceably and justly and kindly. What profit to gain the world and forfeit your soul?

But, dear true Republicans, if you find it in you not to be able to vote for the sensible and competent Democratic candidates, at least do your conscience a favor and step aside and refuse to vote for those candidates who have fallen far from traditional Republican values. Blunt the violence they practice. Write in the name of Tom Ridge or John McCain. Remind your party of what integrity once meant. Will Rogers advised, you really don't have to drink downstream from the herd.

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