

A weekly message from:

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General Assembly Mission Council

We are an Easter people

Greetings to members of the General Assembly Mission Council, Middle Governing Body executives, pastors and friends,

In reflecting upon her mother's sad struggle with Alzheimer's and the start-up of the Iraq War, Anne Lamott wrote, * "We're Easter people in a Good Friday world." (*from Anne Lamott's book, *Traveling Mercies: Some Thoughts on Faith*, © Anchor Books, 2001)



This sentiment resonates in these still fearful times, in which anxiety pervades our civil discourse and anger explodes in the public sphere. It echoes through the conversations leading up to the 219th General Assembly (2010), where we will once again struggle with issues on which faithful Presbyterians disagree as we seek to discern the will of God. It permeates meetings where budgets and plans are being made in the light of financial realities, and for too many in this nation and around the world who face uncertainty and challenges in their own lives.

And yet through it all, we are called to be an Easter people, claimed by, witnessing to and standing on the promises of God, who raised Christ from the dead.

Through such anxious times as these, we affirm that "Christ calls the Church into being, giving it all that is necessary for its mission to the world, for its building up, and for its service to God." (Book of Order G-1.0100 b) When fears of scarcity threaten, we remember and claim God's abundance, reminded by acts of generosity and of love. Indeed Christ has given us all that is necessary to join with Christ in mission. By God's great mercy, we have been given "a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead" (1 Peter 1:3). That is the powerful message of Easter.

We are an Easter people! As Jesus daily shows us how to live, let us reach out to our brothers and sisters everywhere to help equip them to be Easter people, too, even where it seems like a Good Friday world. As we strive to live the rich and full lives that God intends for each and every one of us, let us carry the Easter message forward into a world that is ever renewed and transformed by the power of our risen Christ.

Joyfully yours,

Linda Valentine