

BLESSINGS ALWAYS

November 22, 2023

Association Minister Message

Rev. Daniel L. Busch

RENEWAL. “For the Lord is good; God’s steadfast love endures forever and God’s faithfulness to all generations.” (Psalm 100:5). Noted on the Christian calendar, this Sunday is “Christ the King Sunday,” the final Sunday of the Church Calendar Year. Next Sunday we begin the Season of Preparation, Advent that again celebrates The Birth of Jesus. The secular calendar celebrates a period of anticipation as the clock clicks down and becomes a New Year. As the New Year begins, resolutions are expressed for anticipating hopes and dreams for a meaningful life. It is a time of *RENEWAL*, a time of rebirth, an end that becomes a new beginning, and a time to start over again.

For people of faith, the resurrected Christ will soon be the Christ-child, the newborn baby who symbolizes Immanuel, “*God with us*” again and forever. In this season of *RENEWAL*, resurrection points to new birth within us and the world, the power of God’s amazing grace, and hopes and dreams with unlimited possibilities that “*God’s steadfast love endures forever and God’s faithfulness to all generations.*” It is more than just resolving these things to happen, for God calls us to live the gospel in our words and deeds with one another, to be people who speak and act as peace and justice advocates and turn the world upside down for Christ’s sake.

In Jesus we recognize the majesty of His sovereignty and power in the world, not as a commander of countries or armies who is distant and far-off. Jesus is ever-present in our lives and offers love, forgiveness, healing, companionship, hope, and *RENEWAL* in all conditions of our lives. Through Christ’s eyes we are called to bring *RENEWAL* and hope in other people’s lives. We are witnesses and recipients of God’s goodness, steadfast love, and faithfulness that transforms living into abundance and generosity. The writer of the 100th Psalm also affirms that it is God who made us, and God claims and knows us as God’s family. Give thanks and praise “*For God is good*” and God’s love is forever for all generations. Let us celebrate God’s *RENEWAL* in our lives forever. Happy New Year, people of faith! **BLESSINGS ALWAYS.**