

BLESSINGS ALWAYS

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Association Minister Message

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TRANSITION. Our world and our own personal lives are struggling with catastrophic events that make living unbearable and transient. Environmental changes. Human suffering. Enemy lists. Hunger. Poverty. Unkind words. Disrespect. Emotional turmoil. Faith crisis. What's going on and is there any hope for recovery and celebration?

The Christian calendar notes that we are now in *TRANSITION* times: end of Pentecost (Christ the King Sunday) to Thanksgiving to the beginning of Advent that leads to Christ's Incarnation. Luke's "*little apocalypse*" is a forecast of God's making all things new and evil being destroyed. "*There will be signs in the sun, moon, and stars...Then they will see the Human One coming on a cloud with power and great splendor.*" (Luke 21:25, 27, CEB). Pentecost to Advent reminds us that God makes things new repeatedly in life's cycles of birth to death to resurrection to birth again and again and again. Amid changes, *TRANSITION* becomes "*THANKS-GIVING*" to God for the gifts of goodness and mercy in ways of abundance and love. Jesus' words to His friends are reminders that the end of days reveal redemption and resurrection amid chaos and suffering.

In times of crisis, we become "*Christ-bearers*" in our care for one another. We are *TRANSITION* spokespeople of a faith that brings about care, welcome, and love in our faith communities and social settings. As we prepare for the birth of Jesus, Mark's words remind us of catastrophic events that try to minimize the depth of love that God has for us and the creation. With God's help, it is up to us to turn evil and disasters into experiencing God's love for the world. Mark's words and words from other Gospels, make us aware that even though sufferings continually happen, we have a faith message that calls us to minister and care for others with generosity and determination to the honor and glory of God who makes all things new. *BLESSINGS ALWAYS*.