

The Presbyterian Church in Canada L'Église presbytérienne au Canada



MODERATOR OF THE 2017 GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The Rev. Peter Bush

Nov. 28, 2017

To the teaching and ruling elders and preachers of The Presbyterian Church in Canada:

Advent is upon us. For some of us we feel excitement and joy, some of us have looked at our calendars and already feel exhausted, some of us have been through this so often we have lost the excitement, for still others it is another set of feelings. Whatever we are feeling Advent is upon us.

I have two hopes this Advent-Christmas season.

First, may all of us who have the honour of preaching this Advent-Christmas season find awe and wonder rising in us that we have been given the opportunity to proclaim the extraordinary news that God has come to be with human beings. That in Jesus of Nazareth, Emmanuel (God with us) has come to earth. As wonder and awe grow in us, I pray we will find our hearts bursting with joy at what God has done – both in sending Jesus Christ and in choosing us to be the bearers of the glad tidings that Jesus Christ is born.

Second, I wish to all who receive this letter, the blessings of this season. May you be renewed in your inner being, filled with the hope of the gospel, and find resilience that comes from the Holy Spirit.

Philippians 4:4-8 has come to my mind frequently over the last 6 months, I think the words speak to our present time as they have spoken to the church of Jesus Christ at other times in its life.

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

Yours in Christ,
Peter Bush

Peter Bush
Moderator, 2017 GA of the PCC

Clerks of Assembly: The Rev. Stephen Kendall and The Rev. Donald Muir

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