

Jeff's Jottings

Coming to you from CREDO

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By Jeff Japinga
Executive Presbyterian

I have been (and still am) away this week, recipient of a gift of education and reflection on my mental, spiritual, emotional and physical health, courtesy of a remarkable Presbyterian program called CREDO. We're encouraged to get away from the schedule and demands of our regular work, so that we might in fact be strengthened for the months and years ahead.

That includes writing newsletter reflections. So, with thanks for this time of deep education, and with thanks to one of the great educators of the Presbyterian Church, Jottings today comes to us from the modern day prophet, Walter Brueggemann. As we enter this holy season of Advent, may we all yearn for the life giving gifts of the child.

Newborn Beginning ... After Caesar

And while we wait for the Christ Child,
we are enthralled by the things of Caesar -
money ... power ... control
and all the well-being that comes from
such control, even if it requires violence.

But in the midst of the decree will come this long-expected Jesus
innocent, vulnerable,
full of grace and truth,
grace and not power,
truth and not money,
mercy and not control.

We also dwell in the land of Caesar;
we pray for the gift of your spirit,
that we may loosen our grip on the things of Caesar,
that we may turn our eyes toward the babe,
our ears towards the newness,
our hearts toward the gentleness,
our power and money and control
toward your new governance.