

## BLESSINGS ALWAYS

May 5, 2021

Association Minister Message

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*"NEW SONG."* *"Sing to the Lord a new song because God has done wonderful (marvelous) things."* Psalm 98:1. *"And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith."* 1 John 5:6b. Violence is everywhere. Xenophobia. Racism. Chauvinism. Nationalism. Disrespect. Threats. Power struggles. Family feuds. Political wars. Religious narrow-mindedness/fanaticism. Inflexible attitudes. Unkind words. Blame games. Nation against nation. Intolerant ideology. Misrepresentation of the facts.

Can there be a *NEW SONG* in the midst of the fears and worries of these times in which we are living? And what is the *NEW SONG*? Are we so miserable that we miss, neglect or are not *"singing"* a *NEW SONG* of the marvelous and wonderful things God has done—in us, for us, with us? How do we *"sing"* a *NEW SONG* when we have so much anger and turmoil in our lives?

The Easter Season is almost coming to a close and we continue hearing and singing the Alleluias of the Resurrection message. The Easter message reminds us that it began in darkness and in the tomb. Jesus' death was the leaving of all the hostility of the world and it became *"the victory that conquers the world, our faith."* St. Paul later writes in 1 Corinthians, *"Death where is your victory? Death where is your sting?"* Faith is the corrective needed to find meaning and purpose in our lives. Faith is collaboration with God, others and the world to have the *NEW SONG* of resurrection and life. Faith changes destructive behavior and death into communion and fellowship together as God's beloved.

Each season of the Christian calendar is not an end to itself but a preparation for the next. Lent, the Season of self and community examination leads us to the Easter Season of vitality out of the tombs of all that would be destructive. Easter Season prepares us for the Pentecost time of being filled with God's Spirit. God's Spirit gives us fortitude, strength and empowers the faith in us to be witnesses to the mighty acts of God in the world and in our lives *"because God has done wonderful (marvelous) things."* It is time to turn away from the violence and destructive behaviors of the world and find the *NEW SONG* *"to love one another."* (John 15:17). *BLESSINGS ALWAYS.*