Written in Honor of the 75th Year of the Presbyterian Peace Fellowship

Bequest

His worldly goods were minimal, rough woolen robe, a staff perhaps, worn sandals for his feet, plus— at the utter last— a jagged, sweat-and-blood-stained crown.

No more— there was none— and there could have been no less.

Yet one further, fuller legacy was spoken of that night before he left the upper room.

“My peace I leave with you.”

He told them. “My peace I give to you.”

And in so doing entrusted all who follow him, who seek to set their feet into the ways he walked, with this most gracious gift.

A gift of soul, a certain blessedness of spirit that arose from the assurance, above all, of a supreme divine benevolence, a certain gracefulness of acting, speaking, being, that reached out in new and gentle ways of welcoming and trust, full of promise for the future.

A gift also of flesh and bone and blood, of high purpose and of challenge to be met.

A call to share that rich inheritance of peace, to work to open avenues toward a world where neighbor lives with neighbor, tribe with tribe and clan with clan, in harmony, as community, seeking, above all else, the welfare of the whole, the prospering and common-wealth of this vast and diverse family of God.

J. Barrie Shepherd,
Honorary Co-Chair,
Endowment 75 Campaign

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