



*Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."*

- Mark 1:14b-15

Dear Friends,

Lent is a season of repentance. During these forty days before Easter (excluding Sundays!) we remember Jesus' time of testing in the wilderness, and we reflect on the ways that temptation presses us to turn aside from God's care and purpose for us. We also remember Jesus' promise of the nearness of God's kingdom, and his invitation to lay hold of the good news by changing our thinking and our behavior.

Community of believers as well as individuals, are called to repentance. In our Reformed tradition of the Christian church, we believe that the church is always in need of reform according to the Word of God. The *Book of Order* reminds us, "As it participates in God's mission, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) seeks... a new openness to see both the possibilities and perils of its institutional forms in order to ensure the faithfulness and usefulness of these forms to God's activity in the world; and a new openness to God's continuing reformation of the Church ecumenical, that it might be more effective in its mission" (F-1.0404). The need for reflection, repentance, and reform is an integral part of our heritage as Presbyterians.

The **CAT Survey** is one of the tools National Capital Presbytery offers to congregations seeking to test and reform their engagement in with God's mission. Is your congregation pursuing ways of being church that are no longer engaging the energy of your people and rewarding their participation with satisfaction at living out a faithful response to the Gospel? The CAT can help you discover how to re-direct this energy in ways that reflect the character and calling of your community. If your church has recently taken the CAT, please take note of the upcoming opportunities to hear about how to make use of the information it provides, and if your church hasn't taken it, please come anyway to find out more about this instrument for living out our commitment to continual reform of the church. (See Rev. Tara Spuhler McCabe's update for details.)

Please also take the time to complete the **Landscape Survey**, a version of the CAT designed to help our presbytery examine and refine our ministry as a wider church community. The information we receive from this survey will help us to adapt the presbytery's institutional life to the realities of who we are and what we are called to be in this present season.

Jesus emerged from his forty days of temptation with the good news on his lips. As we test and refine our faithfulness to his good news, may the Spirit breathe a similar urgency and joy into our church!

Grace and Peace,

Rev. David Baer, Stated Clerk