

Dear friends,

As Advent approaches, we've been thinking a lot about this lyric:

“Yet in thy dark streets shineth, the Everlasting Light;  
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.”



So many of the streets in Beirut and the rest of Lebanon's towns and city remain dark at night as the impact of multiple crises continue here. Yet somehow, the Light continues to shine through the hearts and lives of the people here as neighbor helps both neighbor and stranger to persevere. There are many hopes and fears alive side-by-side in the communities that make up the countries of Lebanon, Syria, and Iraq. It is our Christian testimony that into this mix, God has chosen to enter and live among us through the life of Jesus Christ. Christ continues his multi-faceted ministries of justice and mercy through the life of his Church, especially during times like these.

We're grateful to share in that work together with you. Thank you for joining with us, the Presbyterian Mission Agency, and our partners across the Middle East to make visible the Light of Jesus Christ. In this season of Advent and Christmas, may the Everlasting Light of our Lord and Savior continue to fill you with all heart courage and hope to remain a steadfast part of God's work of justice and mercy in your community and beyond.

Together in Christ's Service,

Scott and Elmarie Parker