

Moderator's Closing Address—General Assembly 2023

What a beautiful mix of 'blink and you've missed it' moments and motions, counter-motions, amended amendments that made the mind boggle 😊 What a beautiful mix of ideas and energy, insight and innovation and inspiration. What a beautiful mix of God's creative love – minds, bodies, spirits ... cultures, traditions, wisdom gathered from all over God's world, waiting to work together. Assembled here to consider how the Church of Scotland should/could/will play its part in something so-much-bigger. We have discerned and decided together Not 'rock, paper, scissors', hope we got it right, but wrestling and reflecting and praying together to determine the direction we will walk in together. I leave you with the same comfort, challenge, call we began with. 'Remember who you are.' The body of Christ ... Eyes that see the world as good, who see other human beings as stand-ins for God. Who see a beautiful world, yes, with broken bits, but beautiful! God's created world that needs all the love we can muster.

The body of Christ – hands that aren't afraid to get dirty or reach out or work for a better world they may never live to see.

The body of Christ - feet that walk the extra mile and the one after that, feet ones that slow down and wait and are in it for the long haul. They dance too because there is so much to be joyful about.

The body of Christ - here to hold up a sister who's struggling or sit with a brother who's afraid. With a heart hot with compassion and a voice that cannot/will not be silent when people are shoved or subtly nudged into the margins, cornered there by greed dressed up as 'the way things are.'

The body of Christ – we are part of something so much bigger than any **one** of us and we are blessed to be. So, challenges – bring them on! This body can and will walk a new road together. Look around you – we already are!