

## **General Assembly 2021**

**Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2021**

### **Induction Service**

#### **Reading Jeremiah 29:1-7 New International Version**

##### **A Letter to the Exiles**

**29** This is the text of the letter that the prophet Jeremiah sent from Jerusalem to the surviving elders among the exiles and to the priests, the prophets and all the other people Nebuchadnezzar had carried into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon. <sup>2</sup>(This was after King Jehoiachin<sup>[a]</sup> and the queen mother, the court officials and the leaders of Judah and Jerusalem, the skilled workers and the artisans had gone into exile from Jerusalem.) <sup>3</sup>He entrusted the letter to Elasah son of Shaphan and to Gemariah son of Hilkiyah, whom Zedekiah king of Judah sent to King Nebuchadnezzar in Babylon. It said:

<sup>4</sup>This is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says to all those I carried into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: <sup>5</sup>“Build houses and settle down; plant gardens and eat what they produce. <sup>6</sup>Marry and have sons and daughters; find wives for your sons and give your daughters in marriage, so that they too may have sons and daughters. Increase in number there; do not decrease. <sup>7</sup>Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the LORD for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper.”

#### **2 Timothy 2:3-15 New International Version**

<sup>3</sup>Join with me in suffering, like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. <sup>4</sup>No one serving as a soldier gets entangled in civilian affairs, but rather tries to please his commanding officer. <sup>5</sup>Similarly, anyone who competes as an athlete does not receive the victor’s crown except by competing according to the rules. <sup>6</sup>The hardworking farmer should be the first to receive a share of the crops. <sup>7</sup>Reflect on what I am saying, for the Lord will give you insight into all this.

<sup>8</sup>Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, descended from David. This is my gospel, <sup>9</sup>for which I am suffering even to the point of being chained like a criminal. But God’s word is not chained. <sup>10</sup>Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they too may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory.

<sup>11</sup>Here is a trustworthy saying:

If we died with him,  
we will also live with him;