

FROM THE DESK OF MARY SHARON . . .

## ***Peace is already given***

by Mary Sharon Moore

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Is peace even possible? This question haunts me when I look around, listen to the news, see the state my world is in.

During the weeks of Lent I have set aside the hymn of praise, the Gloria, which I pray before getting out of bed, and have replaced it with the more sobering and urgent plea, the Agnus Dei.

*Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.* You have already broken the chains of sin, unshackled us from our twisted dance with death. If we only understood that we have been set free to be whom you have desired us to be all along.

*Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, restore us to right relationship.* The fruit of mercy, already won but not yet fully realized, is the restoring of right relationship with God, self, others, the created order. "I have removed your sin," the Lamb of God might say. "Live now forgiven, as though it never happened."

*Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, grant us peace.* But the peace is already given. I pray for understanding and courage to use this gift of peace. There is no shortage among the things of God; there is no shortage of peace. But there is a shortage of understanding how to embrace peace, be infused with the peace of the risen Lord, and to become peace poured out, falling afresh on this world which God so loves.

As we journey through the Easter season, retell the stories of encounter with the risen Lord, grieve the loss of the ascended One, and make room in our lives for the Holy Spirit, it is good to ponder: How is God desiring me to be Christ's presence of peace in my world today? How is God desiring me to participate the redeeming work of the Lamb of God here and now?

**MARY SHARON MOORE, M.T.S.**, is founding director of **AWAKENING VOCATIONS**, author of *Touching the Reign of God* (Wipf and Stock, 2009), and creator of the L.A.S.T. Workshop for workteam development. Her work in vocation discernment spans from Church ministry to animating organizations for work that touches the soul of the world. For more, visit [www.awakeningvocations.com](http://www.awakeningvocations.com).

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