

## From the Bishop



### Never Count God Out

After the crucifixion, the leaders of Israel went to their homes, I'm sure, feeling that they had done something positive for the nation. How right they were in such a wrong way. They had counted God out, but God had just begun. For this man who

had died in shame, this chosen one, this beloved – God came to him in death and raised him up. When the day was darkest, when night had fallen, when everyone had counted God out, even Jesus' friends, the disciples – that is when God acted.

The women arose early in the morning to take care of Jesus' body as was the custom for those who have died. They went to the tomb. The sealing stone was rolled back. A young man told them Jesus had risen. They were terrified and told no one as Mark reported. They had counted God out, and now a startling, unbelievable event unfolded before them. God raised Jesus the Christ. The creation has been saved. Death no longer has an eternal hold on us. We have a certain hope.

Don't count God out. In our own lives too often we go about as though nothing at all has happened in the

world. We go about as if there were no God, as if this resurrection doesn't really matter. Let's just live our life and be decent. This is counting God out.

No, we are called everyday by the resurrection to count God into our lives. This resurrection, this empty tomb, this renewed and relived man – this is our promise that God is not gone. God is not away. God is in the midst of our lives and in the midst of this world, recreating and loving and participating. Easter is a holy day because everyone of us can count God in.

If your life has been turned upside down and you feel lost or in grief; or if the day is dark for you, don't count God out. Pray for peace and hope and wholeness. If you are on top of the world and everything is going your way, be grateful and never count God out.

Bishop Craig Johnson

This Good Friday and Easter, my family experienced the death of my mother. The message of resurrection was particularly poignant under these circumstances and the power of God embodied in the resurrection was particularly meaningful. I want to thank all of you for the cards and messages of hope and sympathy which you shared with me. Your words lightened a heavy load.