

March 1 at 10:25 am

Good morning friends,

This has been a hard season for us. Never in my fifteen years of pastoral ministry have I missed four worship services in a row. That is difficult in and of itself, but, four in a row during the season of Lent, is painful. We need this season to prepare us for the Cross and for Easter morning. We need to remember our sin on Ash Wednesday, be reminded of who Jesus is on Transfiguration Sunday, spend time with Jesus in the wilderness, which this year reminds us that we are never alone, and that Jesus inaugurates the longed for, now present Kingdom of God present with us, a time when the Lion will lay down with the Lamb at last. This morning's text, Peter's confession of Jesus as the Messiah, reminds us that, if we call ourselves *Christian* we are followers of the Living Christ, and that following Christ means that our priority must not be our agenda, but God's, which is to turn away from our culture's priority, which is self-serving, and lean into the person God sees in us, folks who bear the image of God in who we are and how we live our lives.

The journey through Lent is an important one. Please read the passages below, the Lenten scripture readings through this morning, and spend some time pondering how these passages inform our journey to the cross, and, finally to Easter morning.

[Joel 2:1-2, 12-17](#)

[Mark 1:9-15](#)

[Mark 9:2-9](#)

[Mark 8:31-38](#)

Also, we still have 3 more spaces for the women's retreat for this Sunday. Our conversations will help prepare us for Easter morning, as we reflect on deep spirituality of Celtic Christianity, and how to know and experience the presence of Christ in every aspect of our lives. If you'd like to sign up, please respond back to me, and we'll get you on the list. We have scholarship monies available.

Finally, here is a Lenten prayer for all of us to reflect on and pray as we continue our pilgrimage together.

I miss you all, and will be back in the pulpit on March 15th.

Grace and peace in your time of Lenten reflection.

Pastor Loril

A Prayer for Lent

The Lenten prayer for this week is written by Trappist monk Thomas Merton.

My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going.
I do not see the road ahead of me.
I cannot know for certain where it will end.
Nor do I really know myself,
and the fact that I think I am following your will
does not mean that I am actually doing so.
But I believe that the desire to please you
does in fact please you.
And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing.
I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire.
And I know that, if I do this,
You will lead me by the right road,
though I may know nothing about it.
Therefore I will trust you always
though I may seem to be lost
and in the shadow of death.
I will not fear, for you are ever with me,
and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.