

WELCOME & INVITATION to LENT

Friends, the season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday.

Originally set apart for baptismal preparation for new Christians, Lent is a time to prepare for the fullness of the paschal mystery, the death and resurrection of Christ, and to renew our lives.

How do we journey in this renewal?

Humility. Honesty. Repentance. Returning to God.

God's intentions for us are good and loving and wonderful. God created us so we might enjoy life with God, in community, and in connection with creation.

Our sin separates us from all of this: God, neighbor, love, creation. The world's sin separates us all from the justice and mercy that we long for in a beloved community.

Lent is a season to trust ancient things: traditions that guide us even in modern life, disciplines that show us the way forward, hard commitments that help us resist evil and all that leads us away from love of God and neighbor.

The traditional spiritual disciplines of Lent are: prayer, fasting, giving to the poor.

There are others spiritual practices worthy of our time and attention as well, and this is the time to take them to heart.

Receive this all as a gift, not an easy or simple one, but one with great promise:

When we get to holy week of Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem, his suffering, death, and resurrection, we too will have died to our old selves, and be raised to new life.

Christ is God's gift of new life for us all.

<https://www.felcaustin.org/wp-content/uploads/The-Season-of-Lent.pdf> This is our invitation. Hold it with wonder and gratitude.

