

3 March 2025

## A Message for Lent 2025

Dear friends,

As we enter this Lenten season, we find ourselves in a world filled with challenges. The ongoing humanitarian crises in Gaza and Ukraine, the increasingly visible effects of climate change, and the divisive political rhetoric that surrounds us can leave us feeling overwhelmed and powerless. Yet it is precisely in such times that the meaning of Lent becomes most powerful. When Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, he faced not just external temptations but profound questions about his identity and purpose. His forty days of struggle weren't about proving his willpower - they were about clarifying who he was called to be in a broken world.

Perhaps our greatest temptation today is not chocolate, social media, or other small indulgences we might give up for Lent. Perhaps our greatest temptation is to turn away from the difficult truths about ourselves and our world, to sleepwalk through life rather than to engage with it fully and courageously.

When we look away from the suffering in Gaza or Ukraine, when we ignore the realities of climate change, when we dismiss those whose politics differ from ours, we're not just avoiding uncomfortable topics, we're avoiding the deeper work God calls us to do: the work of becoming more fully ourselves and more fully present in God's world.

Fortunately, there is good news: the same Spirit that Luke tells us led Jesus into the wilderness remains with us today. The same Spirit that the writer of Genesis tells us hovered over the waters of creation continues to move through the chaos of our lives and our world, bringing forth new possibilities, new understanding, and new life.

This Lent is a good time to ask ourselves what are we running from today? What truth are we afraid to face? Where might the Spirit be leading us to grow? As you reflect, remember that we don't face our wilderness alone. We journey together as Christ's body, supporting one another with compassion and hope; and we journey with the Spirit, who knows that our struggles are not about proving ourselves good or bad, but about discovering who we are truly called to be.

May this Lenten season be for each of us a time of honest reflection and renewed commitment. May we find the courage to face difficult truths about ourselves and our world. And may we emerge from these forty days more fully alive, more deeply connected, and more ready to be bearers of God's love and justice in a world that so desperately needs them.

With prayers for a blessed Lent,



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