

Pastoral Ponderings

How did we get from Advent and Christmas to Ash Wednesday and Lent so quickly. As I write this article, we are only 3 weeks away from the beginning of Lent. While this does seem quick (maybe only to me since I need to develop a theme for the season), last year Ash Wednesday was only 1 week later.

As we approach the days of Lent, what are you expecting? Are you only expecting a change in parament colors from green to purple? Maybe you are remembering that we will begin with the disposition of ashes, a sermon theme that will run during Lent as Tennebrae candles are extinguished each week. And finally, you anticipating grieving a Maundy Thursday soup dinner that can not occur but remember the Communion and Tennebrae Service that will occur on that day.

During Lent, we will still be engaged in the effect these symbols have on our spiritual formation and worship. We will begin our journey in the desert with Jesus as he faced 40 days of reflection and temptation. From there we will move with Jesus toward Jerusalem. And as we lived with the concept of expectation during Advent I invite you to find the sense of expectation during Lent. Yet, you do not need to define what you expect of Lent. Give yourself permission to just show up physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually. Open yourself to listening and looking for God's gifts during this time.

If you are not sure how to do that, may I suggest ... start by remembering moments when you felt alone or lost or in need of direction and God's constant presence was made known to you through dreams, insight or the words and actions of others. You may not have been expecting God in this way but it helped you heal, move forward or grow.

Let's journey through the desert together and continue on to Jerusalem. Just as in life, there will be temptations, decisions, angels to minister to us, a parade follow by grief but we will again see the glory of the abundant life Jesus taught of in his ministry.

Together, we will move forward and God is with us with every breath we take.

Rev. Gloria

