

LENTEN PRAYER  
“From Where I Sit”

*Looking at faith and life with both a community and personal perspective depends on where I sit.*

**The Setting:** *Arrange a variety of objects on a table, some may be of a religious nature, but others may be household items, personal belongings, or something of nature itself. Some may be large and others small so it is unlikely that anyone can see everything as clearly as someone sitting in a different place.*

Invitation to Prayer

Opening Song: “Gather the Family” [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ue46-zj\\_wAk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ue46-zj_wAk)

Reading: Mt. 13:13-15

What was spoken by the prophet Isaiah is being fulfilled:

*Listen and listen, but never understand! Look and look, but never perceive!*

*This people’s heart has grown coarse, their ears dulled, they have shut their eyes tight  
To **avoid** using their eyes to see, their ears to hear, Their heart to understand,*

*Change your ways and be healed by me. (adpt. by SV)*

Reflection/Sharing

After a time of quiet please share what you see with the group.

Lenten Response: Carrying the Cross (pg. 2)

Magnificat: [Canticle of the Turning](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3NQLWnmWNxM) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3NQLWnmWNxM>

My soul cries out with a joyful shout that the God of my heart is great,  
And my spirit sings of the wondrous things that you bring to the ones who wait.  
You fixed your sight on your servant’s plight, and my weakness you did not spurn,  
So from east to west shall my name be blest. Could the world be about to turn?

**Refrain:**

My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn.  
Wipe away all fears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn.

Though I am small, my God, my all, you work great things in me,  
and your mercy will last from the depth of the past to the end of the age to be.  
Your very name puts the proud to shame, and to those who would for you yearn,  
You will show your might, put the strong to flight, for the world is about to turn.

From the halls of power to the fortress tower, not a stone will be left on stone.  
Let the king beware for your justice tears every tyrant from his throne.  
The hungry poor shall weep no more, for the food they can never earn;  
There are tables spread, every mouth be fed, for the world is about to turn.

Though the nations rage from age to age, we remember who holds us fast:  
God’s mercy must deliver us from the conqueror’s crushing grasp.  
This saving word that our forebears heard is the promise which holds us bound,  
Till the spear and rod can be crushed by God, who is turning the world around.

Carrying the Cross  
(author unknown, rev. 2020-4-3))

Response: **Jesus, grant us strength to carry our cross.**

1. On those days when life seems too demanding with all its cares, burdens, and concerns...
2. When we experience great loneliness, health fears, social distancing, reduced income, and worry due to the coronavirus and the pain of separation ...
3. When we feel the pain of our world and unite in compassion with the earth's suffering people...
4. When we struggle with decision-making and the time comes to make a choice about our life...
5. When we are with others in physical pain or in vigil with one who has a terminal illness...
6. When we are asked to go the extra mile, to be generous with our time and presence...
7. When we feel weary and worn out, when it seems like all of our energy has been drained...
8. When we are challenged to risk our security and to accept new growth in our relationship with you...
9. When we experience the effects of aging or extended illness on our bodies or minds...
10. When we feel discouraged, desolate, and depressed and want to withdraw from others...
11. When worries and concerns choke our peacefulness and leave us with anxiety and fear...
12. When we harbor old wounds and are called to offer or to receive forgiveness...

All:

Crucified Jesus, help us to take up our cross day by day. Through these crosses we can grow closer to you. Help us to lean on you and to learn from you. May we not give in to self-pity or self-doubt. Rather, let us trust in your presence which strengthens us. Encourage us on our tomb-like days. Remind us of your resurrection. Help us to keep our vision focused on life and growth. Amen.