



The 2018 Lenten Meditation Series

By John La Boone

"I will study your commandments and reflect on your ways. I will delight in your decrees and not forget your word." – Psalm 119:15–16

One week from today on Ash Wednesday, we will revive the Christ Church Lenten Meditation Ministry. It is a series of daily devotionals for Lent created by members of our parish (plus a few special friends of Christ Church). We have modeled this program on the Episcopal Church's popular *Forward Day by Day* booklets, but we did the whole thing ourselves. Previously, we produced a Lenten meditation series for four years during (2011 – 2014), and now, it's back.

This year's collection is called "A Shared Pilgrimage." Each day the members of Christ Church will receive the listings of the lectionary readings for that day and then a brief reflection – either written or musical – on how those Bible passages spoke to the person making the offering for that day. The day's selection will end with the Episcopal Church's collect for the day. We have the opportunity to travel together on a journey through the Lenten season of prayer, study and introspection by using the series in our daily devotions. Though we will be in different locations while we make use of the meditations, we are still fellow pilgrims traveling together on our journey to Easter Day.

I want to thank all of the writers who have shared from their experience, faith and hope to make this possible. We had an outstanding writing team this year. Each writer contributed his or her best, and it shows in a wonderful way. With about 40 people altogether involved in this ministry, it is a big undertaking that depends on each person playing a crucial part in the success of the whole work. So I send a huge thank you out to all of our writers. (Most of the reflections are attributed to their authors but a few of our writers chose to make their contributions anonymously.) It has been a pleasure and an honor to serve with such dedicated, insightful and faith-filled people.

I also thank Fr. Tom for his enthusiastic support and encouragement of this ministry. Things tend to prosper if they are supported from the top, and Tom's backing has been very important to the success of our work. Thanks also to our other clergy, Ashton and Becky, for their approval, encouragement and participation. Special thanks to our Music Director, Kathleen Turner, as well. This we year are introducing musical meditations for all Sundays in Lent. Kathleen was very helpful in making that happen. The featured music was performed by Christ Church musicians and it really is inspiring. Last, but certainly not least, I thank our Communications Associate Julie Hancock for all of her assistance in getting the collection in good order, proofed, emailed, printed, etc. Julie has been an invaluable blessing in this project and many, many more.

The devotions will be delivered via email each day, but printed booklets will also be available, by request, for those who are not online. I sincerely wish everyone a holy and inspired Lenten season. Bless you.