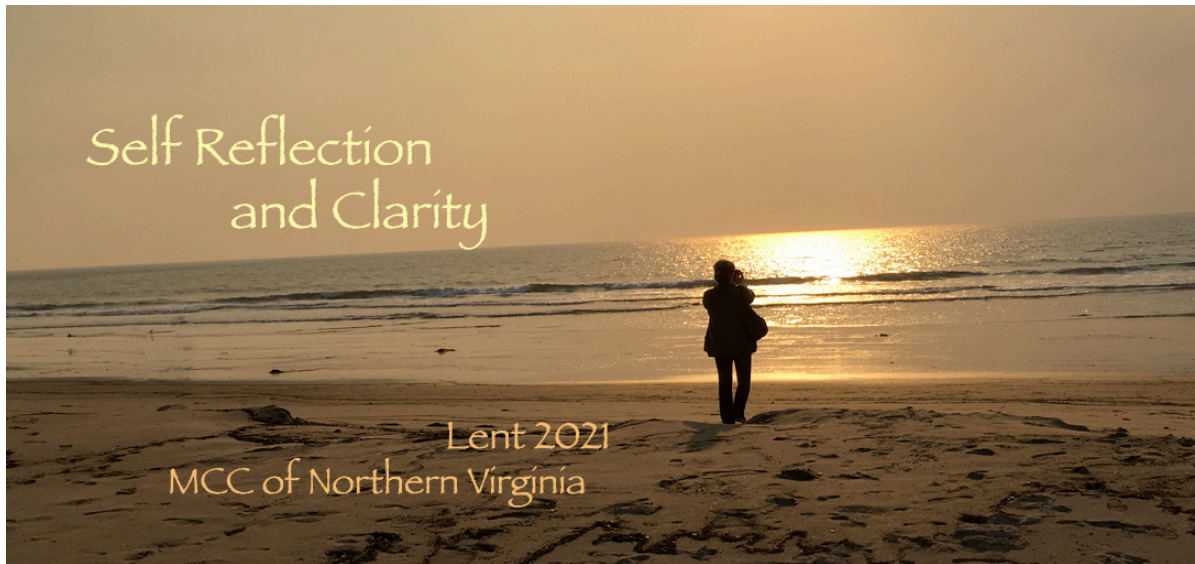


March 21, 2021 Fifth Sunday in Lent



Hope Springs

Rev. Emma Chattin
Preaching

First Reading ~ *Jeremiah 31:31-34*

Behold the days are surely coming, says YHWH, when I will establish a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt— a covenant that they broke, though I was like their spouse and caretaker, says YHWH. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says YHWH: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know YHWH,” for they shall all know me [recognize and be acquainted with me], from the least of them to the greatest, says YHWH; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

Second Reading ~ *from Brené Brown in “The Gifts of Imperfection”*

Whether we’re overcoming adversity, surviving trauma, or dealing with stress and anxiety, having a sense of purpose, meaning, and perspective in our lives allows us to develop understanding and move forward. Without purpose, meaning, and perspective, it is easy to lose hope, numb our emotions, or become overwhelmed by our circumstances. We feel reduced, less capable, and lost in the face of struggle. The heart of spirituality is connection. When we believe in that inextricable connection, we don’t feel alone.