

CREATED FOR COMMUNITY

LENTEN DEVOTIONAL 2021

Introduction

We are people *created for community* – community with one another, of course, and also community with *creation*, with the *saints*, with our *neighbor*, with those on the *margins*, and most of all, with *Christ*. Though we enter this Lent physically apart, we know that we are still connected in myriad ways to one another.

The goal of this devotional is to help you lean into some of those connections, with one another and with God. Here's a roadmap and explanation of how to use it:

Sundays will offer an overview of the week's theme, as well as suggested thematic practices for the week. The traditional Lenten practices are: **praying, fasting and giving**, and there will be one of each suggested. You're encouraged each week to try these for at least a day, but even better, all week. If you like something, do it beyond that week! The prayer practice will be explored in more depth following the Wednesday night conference-wide Zoom gathering, at 7:30.

“**Musical Mondays**” will provide a hymn to guide your week. If you choose to receive this devotional digitally, as a daily email, you can enjoy Jon singing and playing it for you; if you prefer just the hard copy, you can meditate on the text.

Wednesdays you will find the liturgy for the evening's conference-wide Zoom prayer service, held at 7pm. Even without attending the service, you can do this liturgy on your own.

Saturdays will invite you into some thematic activity – perhaps a focused walk, or a craft. This is a good way to engage kids in our theme, but is also fun for grown-ups!

The other days will provide short reflections written by members of St. Paul's, offering insight and bringing us closer to others in our faith community.

Thanks to all who contributed to this devotional, and may we all hold one another and all the world in love and prayer.