Session Two: Wednesday Evening @ 7:00pm-8:30 March 23, 2022

A Lenten Wilderness Journey: The Wilderness as Doorway/Threshold

Children's Center 2nd Floor Rotunda @7:00 pm -7:25 pm

Overview: For Quiet Reflection

In Lent, we hear the scripture story of Jesus being sent into the wilderness, after being filled with the Holy Spirit. Lent is a time of being laid bare by the Tempter and later attended to by Angels. Wilderness conjures many images: wild, untamed, uninhabited, expansive, dangerous, stark, unknown, overwhelming. Is it possible to say, the wilderness is a place where things are revealed that can't be discovered elsewhere?

Whenever we experience a significant spiritual time of wrestling with God or a tempter, we, like Jesus. are living in the wilderness.

Tonight's reflection and discussion pose a pivotal question. Have any of your personal wilderness struggles left you on an unexpected threshold, at an unanticipated doorstep on your faith journey? We gather together to seek resources for those steps on our journey of faith.

Scripture: Matthew 26: 39

Matthew 26:39- And he went a little farther, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt.

Reading: A Perspective When on the Threshold

This being human is a guest house. Every morning a new arrival. A joy, a depression, a meanness. Some momentary awareness comes as an unexpected visitor. Welcome and entertain them all! Even if they're a crowd of sorrows, who violently sweep your house empty of its furniture, still, treat each guest honorably. He may be clearing you out for some new delight. The dark thought, the shame, the malice. Meet them at the door laughing, and invite them in. Be grateful for whoever comes, because each has been sent as a guide from beyond.

"This Being Human" Rumi from The Guest House

Session Two: Wednesday Evening @ 7:00pm-8:30 March 23, 2022

Questions:

1. What do you imagine Jesus was feeling as he struggled with his calling and suffering ahead?

2. How did he come to the place of acceptance and the turning point of "not my will, but your will be done?' Who/What helped him? How was he changed?

3 . What is to be learned, as the poem suggests, to welcome all feelings into your life?

4. When mired in our own personal struggles, which emotions are harder/easier to welcome and accept?

5. What specifically might we take from this scripture and poem that speaks to wilderness as a doorway or threshold in our own spiritual journey?

A Wilderness Collage

Consider this page to be your personal white board: a blank canvas.
Write a word, draw an image, or paste an imaginary photo that conjures up your summary thought about wilderness, as being a place of threshold or doorway, and part of your growth in seeking an ever growing and renewed relationship with God.

Group Discussion: Children's' Center Classroom ____ @ 7:25 pm

Please leave quietly and follow the signs to gather with fellow participants for a discussion of the Lenten Wilderness Journey as Doorway/Threshold.