



Lent at Home 2021

Come and See

The season of Lent has always been observed as a wilderness time, a time to explore some of the hard and dry places in our lives. However, Lent is also a time of invitation. Each year as we walk with Jesus in his life and ministry, we are invited anew to “come and see,” just as Jesus invited his first followers.

In our Lent at Home materials you will find a Morning Prayer, a Prayer of Confession and Assurance, a Practice of Sacred Reading of Scripture, and an Evening Prayer. We pray that through these practices you will receive anew Jesus’ invitation to “come and see,” in your own life.

Sacred Reading of Scripture (Lectio Divina)

Choose a text and read it through slowly three times.

First reading: allow the words to flow over you. Try not to think about them too much. Just listen.

Second reading: notice if there is a word or phrase that catches your attention.

Third reading: consider how these words might be speaking into your life. From what you have read and heard, what might God’s invitation be for you?

*These resources have been adapted from those created by the Lent Resource Team for *Leader Magazine Winter 2020-2021*. Evening Prayers are drawn from the *Lenten Guided Prayer* materials from Mennonite Spiritual Directors of Eastern Canada.

LENT 1 (FEBRUARY 21)**Invitation to Relationship**

The voice of God pierces the deep, calling us to deeper relationship. With the floodwaters behind us and the waters of baptism holding us, our relationship with God establishes our identity with other people and the world we live in.

Morning Prayer

God, we are here at the water's edge, casting off from shore into unknown waters. With fear and trembling, we drop our oars, letting them go, trusting the sea. God, we trust the signs of your covenant: the ark through the water, the waters of baptism, the bow in the clouds and the dove from the heavens. We call to you as you call us deeper into your steadfast love. Amen

Prayer of Confession and Assurance

Deep calls to deep.

We call to you from the depths of our hearts.

We confess when we have stayed too close to the surface,

avoiding you,

avoiding our neighbors.

We confess when we have felt in over our heads.

Needing you,

needing our neighbors.

(Silent prayer)

Deep calls to deep.

You call to us from the depth of your love.

Calling us to deeper relationship.

We come to you, God. Amen

Sacred Reading (Lectio Divina)

Choose a text and read it through using the directions for Sacred Reading on page 1.

Genesis 9:8-17 * Psalm 25:1-10 * 1 Peter 3:18-22 * Mark 1:9-15

Evening Prayer

Good God, your love is unending. We can scarcely comprehend it. Open our ears and our hearts to your mercy and grace. Walk with us during this season of Lent so that our desire for relationship with you and others deepens. Amen

LENT 2 (FEBRUARY 28)

Invitation to Trust

We are transformed by God as we follow God's voice along the path of life, a voice calling us to deep trust. Even when our path leads us into unfamiliar places, as we lose ourselves, we are found.

Morning Prayer

Faithful God, you ask us to set our minds on you, to walk before you and be blameless. You teach us what matters, and you do not hide your face from us. With each step along the path, we are transformed into who you made and called us to be. God, you teach us that when we lose our life, we save it. With each step along the path, we hope against hope in your promises. We believe your everlasting covenant is to be God to us. We call out to you, as you call us to trust in your covenant love. Amen

Prayer of Confession and Assurance

Deep calls to deep.

We call to you from the depths of our hearts.

We confess when we have stayed on the edges.

Not listening to each other.

Not taking the path you show.

We confess when we have strayed from your way.

Silencing suffering.

Forfeiting life.

(Silent prayer)

Deep calls to deep.

You call to us from the depth of your love.

Calling us to deep trust.

We come to you, God. Amen

Sacred Reading (Lectio Divina)

Choose a text and read it through using the directions for Sacred Reading on page 1.

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16 * Psalm 22:23-31 * Romans 4:13-25 * Mark 8:31-38

Evening Prayer

Merciful God, you call us to commitment and transformation. You call us to trust your guidance even when the path forward is difficult and unfamiliar. Walk with us. Shadow us with your everlasting love. Amen

LENT 3 (MARCH 7)

Invitation to Wisdom

In the patterns and glory of God's creation, and in God's commandments and promises, we are called to obtain deep wisdom. God's wisdom undermines our assumptions and takes us deeper than our own efforts can lead us.

Morning Prayer (based on Psalm 19)

The heavens are telling us of your glory, O God, and the skies proclaim your handiwork. Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge. In the heavens you set a tent for the sun. Its rising is from the end of the heavens, its circuit to the end of them; nothing is hid from its heat. Your law, O Lord, is perfect, sure, clear, true, and righteous. We call out to you, as you call us to deeper wisdom. Amen

Prayer of Confession and Assurance

Deep calls to deep.

We call to you from the depths of our hearts.

We confess when we have settled into sameness,
 forgetting the rhythms of the heavens,
 ignoring the rhythms of justice.

We confess when we have not looked up
 into the eyes of a neighbor,
 into your Word that still lives.

(Silent prayer)

Deep calls to deep.

You call to us from the depth of your love.

Calling us to deep wisdom.

We come to you, God. Amen

Sacred Reading (Lectio Divina)

Choose a text and read it through using the directions for Sacred Reading on page 1.
 Exodus 20:1-17 * Psalm 19 * 1 Corinthians 1:18-25 * John 2:13-22

Evening Prayer

Source of infinite wisdom, give us discernment to check and correct our own understanding. Lead us to put away all unhelpful thoughts. Make our hearts sensitive to your guidance. Amen

LENT 4 (MARCH 14)**Invitation to Healing**

The wilderness confronts us with our vulnerability and exposes our wounds and our needs. We are called to deep healing by trusting in God, who calls us in love.

Morning Prayer

God of healing, the wilderness too is part of your path, though we fear wild, barren places. When the people of Israel became impatient, asking, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness?" You answered by bringing healing. In our barren places, you call us to wholeness, even when we cannot see beyond the danger, isolation, and need. We forget that you are already at work in these difficult, painful places. We call out to you, as you call us to deeper healing. Amen

Prayer of Confession and Assurance

Deep calls to deep.

We call to you from the depths of our hearts.

We confess how the wilderness has revealed our need,

uncovering our impatience,

lifting up our pain.

We confess how the wilderness has revealed your truth.

We are created for goodness.

We can turn and live.

(Silent prayer)

Deep calls to deep.

You call to us from the depth of your love.

Calling us to deep healing.

We come to you, God. Amen

Sacred Reading (Lectio Divina)

Choose a text and read it through using the directions for Sacred Reading on page 1.

Numbers 21:4-9 * Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22 * Ephesians 2:1-10 * John 3:14-21

Evening Prayer

Healing One, deliver us from all that threatens the health of body, mind and spirit.

Help us to look to you for deep healing. Give us peace and joy beyond our fears.

Amen

LENT 5 (MARCH 21)

Invitation to Hope

Like a seed that falls deep into the dark, rich earth, we are called to hope, releasing our attachments and waiting for opportunities to bear and offer fruit.

Morning Prayer

God of hope, you spoke to the prophet Jeremiah saying, “The days are coming when I will make a new covenant with Israel. I will be their God, and they will be my people.” There is a time for everything, and sometimes, the hour is upon us. Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, knowing that those who love their life will lose it. “The hour has come. Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.” We call out to you, as you call us to deeper hope. Amen

Prayer of Confession and Assurance

Deep calls to deep.

We call to you from the depths of our hearts.

We confess our resistance to being planted

into your aching earth,

into the way of your covenant.

We confess our need for you to plant within us

the joy of your salvation,

a willing spirit.

(Silent prayer)

Deep calls to deep.

You call to us from the depth of your love.

Calling us to deep hope.

We come to you, God.

Sacred Reading (Lectio Divina)

Choose a text and read it through using the directions for Sacred Reading on page 1.
Jeremiah 31:31-34 * Psalm 51:1-12 * Hebrews 5:5-10 * John 12:20-33

Evening Prayer

Gracious God, thank you for being with us in all the seasons of our lives. Help us to name and release that which limits our ability to grow and bear fruit. Nurture new awareness and grow your hope within us. Amen

LENT 6 (MARCH 28)

Invitation to Courage

As we follow Jesus into Holy Week, we sense the rush of the crowds and seek the steady current of God's steadfast love, calling us to deep courage as we seek the One who comes in the name of the Lord.

Morning prayer

God, in the current of life you call us to deep courage. Awaken our ears, turn us to you. You are our strength and our salvation; help us to rise up together. We give thanks, for you are good, and your steadfast love endures. On that path of palms many shouted, "Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David!" And so we call out to you, as you call us to deep courage. Amen

Prayer of Confession and Assurance

Deep calls to deep.

We call to you from the depths of our hearts.

We confess the worries of life that sweep us off our feet
 into whirlpools of expectations,
 into eddies of distractions.

We confess our need for a steadfast stream of your grace
 enduring forever,
 saving us.

(Silent prayer)

Deep calls to deep.

You call to us from the depth of your love.

Calling us to deep courage.

We come to you, God.

Sacred Reading (Lectio Divina)

Choose a text and read it through using the directions for Sacred Reading on page 1.
 Isaiah 50:4-9a * Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 * Philippians 2:5-11 * John 12:12-16

Evening Prayer

God of radical hope, you call us to place our trust in you and act with courage born of your love and justice. Help us to hear your voice above the chatter. Still our souls until they rest in your strong and steady hand. Give us the courage to stay steadfast to your calling. Amen

GOOD FRIDAY (APRIL 2)

Invitation to Lament

Jesus is despised, suffering. He becomes intimately familiar with cruelty and pain. As we journey with Jesus to the cross, we are exposed to the brokenness of humanity and enter into deep lament alongside our Lord.

Morning Prayer

Loving and compassionate God, we pray to you this day in remembrance of Jesus our Savior, your child, who loved us and gave himself for us. We draw near to you assured of your endless love and mercy. Even as we lament the suffering of Jesus and of this world, we give our thanks and praise to Jesus Christ who carries our sorrows, heals our wounds, and redeems us from sin and death. Amen*

Prayer of Confession and Assurance

Deep calls to deep.

We call to you from the depths of our hearts.

We confess to you our hesitance to feel pain

our own pain,

the pain of this world.

We confess our need for your enduring embrace

holding us tight

in the midst of sorrow.

(Silent prayer)

Deep calls to deep.

You call to us from the depth of your love.

Calling us to deep lament.

We come to you, God. Amen

Sacred Reading (Lectio Divina)

Choose a text and read it through using the directions for Sacred Reading on page 1.
Isaiah 52:13-53:12 * Psalm 22 * Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9 * John 18:1-19:42

Evening Prayer

God, the depth of your love for us is beyond our imagining. Jesus suffered greatly to show us that your love is greater than fear and hatred. Hold us in our sorrow as we lament the death of your beloved. Amen

*Adapted from a prayer by Marlene Kropf, in *Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross: Good Friday Service*.

EASTER SUNDAY (APRIL 4)

Invitation to New Life

We have seen the Lord! A rich feast has been prepared for all peoples on the mountain of God. Like Mary, Jesus calls us each by name into new life.

Morning prayer

Risen Lord, while it was still dark, Mary found the light! She stood weeping and saw angels but did not recognize you. But when you call our name, then we recognize the way, the truth, and the life. And then there is feasting! And there is feasting to come. God will make for all peoples a feast of rich food and well-aged wines and will wipe away tears from all faces. It will be said on that day, "This is our God for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice." Amen

Affirmation of Faith

Deep calls to deep.

We give thanks from the depths of our hearts!

Once weeping, now proclaiming:

 "I have seen the Lord!"

Once famished, now feasting:

 "This is the God for whom we have waited!"

Once divided, now convicted:

 "Jesus Christ is Lord of all!"

 We shall not die but we shall live and keep telling the deeds of the Lord.

(Silent prayer of thanksgiving)

Deep calls to deep.

You call to us from the depth of your love, O God.

You have come to us in Jesus Christ.

We answer your call to new life!

Sacred Reading (Lectio Divina)

Choose a text and read it through using the directions for Sacred Reading on page 1.
Isaiah 25:6-9 * Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 * 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 * John 20:1-18

Evening Prayer

Loving God, we have come to the end of our Lenten journey to discover yet again that in you is life and life renewed. We call to you from the depth of our hearts. May we rest in your love and gain renewed hope in your power to overcome the greatest sorrows. Amen