

03-17-24 FOR THE JOURNEY THIS WEEK

“All who have reason for tears and loud cries are addressed... Their tears, cries, and clenched silences are gathered into a groaning divine cry, ceaselessly rising, painfully lifting the suffering world toward hope of transformation.”

- Paul Simpson Duke



Hebrews 5:5-10 † John 12:20-33

Questions for Reflection —

- What is the state of your heart at this point in the Lenten journey? What about it is broken and contrite? What in your heart is in need of God’s transforming love? What would it mean for you to completely surrender your heart to God? What spiritual practices will enable your heart to be saturated with God’s love, mercy, and grace? What would it look like for you to let God’s love, mercy, and grace flow from your heart to others?

- What presently troubles your soul? Where do you find comfort and strength during difficult times? Do you ever ask others to pray for you? Why or why not? How frequently do you offer intercessory prayers for others? Have you ever prayed with loud cries and tears? Were those prayers for yourself or for others? What does it mean for you to be present to those who are suffering or struggling in some way?

- What does it mean to die daily? What might you need to relinquish in order to make room for God’s transformation in your life? What new fruit might you bear if you can let go of old ways of thinking and doing? What will give you the strength, courage, and trust to let go? What in the life of our congregation might need to die in order for us to move forward? In what ways is this death painful? Do you see ways in which it might lead to new life for us and enable us to flourish?

Daily Household Prayer

O God, teach us temperance and self-control, that we may live in the Spirit and be mindful of all that Jesus endured and sacrificed for our sakes, and how he was made perfect through sufferings. Help us so to keep the fast that you have chosen, that we may loose the bonds of wickedness, undo the heavy burdens, and let the oppressed go free; through the grace of Christ Jesus our crucified and risen Savior. Amen.