

**February 19, 2026**

Dear Ones,

What does Lent mean to you? Is it a time for depriving oneself of some pleasure? A time for taking on a special discipline? I have shared with several of you my favorite story of someone's Lenten discipline. In one of my former parishes I asked someone how he was going to observe Lent. He said, "I'm going to be nicer to the cat." At first I thought he was just joking around, but then his wife gave me a look that told me this was dead serious. "I can't stand that cat," he said, "But my wife loves it. So I'm going to try to be nicer to it."

When I asked him on Easter Sunday how it had gone, he said, "You know, I still don't love the cat. But I don't hate it anymore." That may be the most effective Lenten discipline I've ever heard.

So what is your "be nicer to the cat" challenge for Lent? For me, I have decided that instead of feel powerless and sad about a situation I can't do anything about, I'm going to commit to praying for all parties involved. For softening of hearts, opening of minds. For a willingness in each of them to listen to one another, hear how small actions hurt and resentments built. To at least consider the possibility of reconciliation and a new, better relationship, while there is still time to build one.

I pray a holy Lent for each of you.

In the meantime....*keep the faith,*  
Nancy+

#### **THIS SUNDAY'S READINGS**

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7 \* Psalm 32 \* Romans 5:12-19 \* Matthew 4:1-11

#### **CREATION CARE TIPS**

*Given a little space, could the planet heal?*

Yesterday was the beginning of Lent, a time we consider all that we have been given, all that we should work to fix, and all that we could give up.

At coffee hour two Sundays ago, Malaikah showed me a poem. It made me cry; I felt it should be shared with all of you.

#### **From Space**

Seen from space our planet is a blue marble,  
tiny and vulnerable, a child's plaything.  
When giants play at marbles the marbles often crack.  
A crack for all the plastic clogging up the seas.  
A crack for all the pollution, a crack for the felling of trees.  
A crack for all the oil that spills and coats and chokes,  
a crack for every politician who says global warming's a joke.

Seen from space our planet is a teary eye, sad and soft, begging to be wiped.

When tears are left to pool, sadness drowns us all..  
A tear for the crops that can no longer flourish and grow.  
A tear for every child who will never get to grow old.  
A tear for every bullet, every bomb that should never have been made.  
A tear for the next generation who never asked to play this game.

Given a little space, could the planet heal?

Space for the fish to repopulate the seas.  
Space for the forests to once again grow trees.  
Space for the skies to cry away the smoke.  
Space for the next generation to fix what their forefathers broke.

– Joseph Coehlo

Perhaps we can start to fix things now. For Lent, I will be presenting problems to be solved and looking to you for ideas to solve them.

– Patty Watts, Christ Church Earth Keeper

**Hurt not the earth—neither the sea—nor the trees. Revelation 7:3**

*“From Space” appears in the book, This Is Not a Small Voice, Poems by Black Poets, Selected by Traci N. Todd, illustrated by Jade Orlando.*

### CALENDAR

SUN:	9:15 AM	Sunday School
	10:15 AM	Eucharist
WED:	9:00 AM	Eucharist/Bible Study
	6:00 PM	Soup Swap
THU:	9:00 AM	Christ Church Book Group/Zoom
	7:15 PM	Zoom Compline
FRI:	12 Noon	Community Lenten Lunch at 1 <sup>st</sup> Congo

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Roof project is completed!** A big THANK YOU to all who contributed toward the project to remove the steeple and place the new cross. Your generosity is greatly appreciated!

**Pot Luck Coffee Hour** Keep it simple for the first Sunday in Lent. Thanks.

**The bishop is coming!** The Rt. Rev. Thomas J. Brown will be with us at worship and fellowship on Sunday, March 15 (any interest in a choir for that day?). I will meet with those who are interested in being confirmed or received after worship.

**Wednesday Evening Soup Swap** What to bring: a crock pot full of your favorite and famous homemade soup, chowder or stew; a serving ladle; your own soup bowl and spoon; your own storage containers, to take your swapped soup home with you. Bread and butter will be provided. We will begin to gather at 6 pm. Please join us even if you haven't had time to make soup. There will be more than enough to share.

**Lenten Lunches** We have chosen February 27 as our day to provide soup for the Lenten Lunches. Please speak to Patty if you'd like to help in any way.

## MINISTRIES LIST

	<b>This week:</b>	<b>Next week:</b>
Lector 1:	Bruce Watts	Thelma Cunningham
Psalmist:	Holly Stuhr	Jill Cunningham
Lector 2:	Jill Cunningham	Jason Long
Acolyte:	Peter Bickford	Doug Wall
Euch. Minister:	Patty Watts	Tom Knight
Usher:	Jeff Stuhr	Holly Stuhr
Altar Guild:	Jen Lehr	Jen Lehr
Coffee Hour:	Potluck	Fran & Cathy
Counter:	Tom Knight	Jeff Stuhr
Closer:	Peter Hammond	Carlyn Kroitzsh