



**LENT 2 Grow. Pray. Study. 3.8.2020**

*In our Scripture lessons this week, we hear that God’s promises, God’s presence, God’s wondrous love and God’s grace are what keep us and save us. In newness, in difficulty, in chaos, or in confusing times, God is actively involved in the flourishing, birthing, and guarding of life. For those on the move, God is part of the unfamiliar and difficult journeys. For those looking to the hills crying for help, God is nearby guarding them. For those who misunderstand how to apply faith practices to daily life, God reminds us that it was love that came to save the world and we must emerge in a new life bathed in that love. For those exhausting themselves trying to do good deeds to earn reputation or power in human society, we are reminded that it is God’s grace and our faithful response to that grace that are our inheritance and our salvation.*

**Monday, March 9: Genesis 12:1-4a** For various reasons, all along a spectrum of hope to despair, people move. In many places people are forced to flee because of hunger, poverty, political upheaval, or the lack of sustainable livelihoods. Which restriction would you find more intolerable: leaving your country never to return? Or never leaving your hometown? Why? To what (place, people, priority) might God be calling you? Why not go?

**Tuesday, March 10: Psalm 121** What does the assurance of God’s love and gracious protection and constant presence mean in these anxious times and for people on anxious journeys?

**Wednesday, March 11: John 3:1-17** Jesus compares God’s mysterious ways to the way we can’t know where the wind will blow. How might God be using current events to bring new life and love to the world? If God comes to us through Jesus Christ in saving love, what would it mean for the church to be a place not of condemnation, but of saving love for the world?

**Thursday, March 12: Romans 4:1-5** God created a way to create a multitude of descendants for Abraham and Sarah, although originally, they were not able to have children. How might God be working in your life to make a way out of what seems like a dead end?

**Friday, March 13: Romans 4:13-17** Because we are justified by faith and never by our own works, how do we act so that our actions are thankful responses to God’s grace (rather than deeds we think will earn approval from the world around us?) What would grace-filled, grateful actions look like in our time and place, to the homeless, to people struggling with substance use disorders, people isolated by lack of transportation, families facing food insecurity throughout here in our local communities?



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