

lenten guide 2024

new community

spokane, washington

**New Community; this lenten season:**

May God bless you with discomfort at easy answers, half-truths, and superficial relationships so that you may live deep within your heart.

May God bless you with anger at injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people, so that you may work for justice, freedom, and peace.

May God bless you with tears  
To shed for those who suffer pain, rejection, hunger and war,  
So that you may reach out your hand to comfort them and  
To turn their pain into joy.

And may God bless you with enough foolishness  
To believe that you can make a difference in the world,  
So that you can do what others claim cannot be done  
To bring justice and kindness to all our children and the poor.  
Amen.

[franciscan prayer]

exodus 20:1-17  
psalm 19  
1 corinthians 1:18-25  
john 2:13-22

[sunday, march 3rd]

pray

We are counted your people.  
We are grateful to be called by you, and glad for our special way of faith in the world. You have marked us and named us and signed us, and we are different, different memories, different hopes, different fears, different commands, different ways of being.

The difference we find glorious, but at times a burden too severe. We yearn to be like the others, like the others

in power,  
in money,  
in freedom,  
in certitude,  
in security,  
like the others,

uncalled, unburdened, unembarrassed.

We come to you in that deep trial of difference and likeness.

Engage us in our difference,  
Give us courage for our different vocations, and energy for our different hope. In the name of your crucified,

ask

in what ways are you yearning to be like the others? where has that difference become severe in your life?

the above prayer mentions our difference in memories, hopes, fears, and ways of being. are you presently in community with people who share those same ways of being? if not, what can you do to begin to engage in that type of community?

quote for the week of reflection

The love of God is who you are. The compassion of Christ is the only solid identity you will ever apprehend. All thoughts of identity apart from this single, magnificent truth are shadow and illusion. The love that God unwaveringly holds for you, received within your immortal soul, is your real identity, your true self. The love of God is everything, and you are nothing apart from this one love. Immersed in your compassionate God, you live and move and have your being (Acts 17:28). Because the love of God is who you are, the most accurate way to think about your true self, the one phrase that can resonate deep within your being is, "I am the beloved of Christ." Can you open yourself to this wondrous truth? You are the beloved. The glory of God is at home in you.  
Judy Hougen

**monday**

[psalm 56]  
[mark 3:31-4:9]

**tuesday**

[psalm 61]  
[jeremiah 4:9-28]

**wednesday**

[psalm 70]  
[jeremiah 5:1-9]

**thursday**

[romans 1:1-15]  
[john 4:27-42]

**friday**

[jeremiah 5:20-31]  
[john 5:1-18]

**saturday**

[psalm 75]  
[john 11:17-27]

pray

Our Father, who art in heaven,  
Hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come,  
Thy will be done,  
On earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread,  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
As we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
But deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom and the power  
and the glory, for ever and ever.  
Amen.