

Resources for Lent: Sin, Forgiveness, & Calling

For your leadership team

Reflections for each week of Lent:

1st Sunday of Lent

Give thanks this week for the ways your church community has blessed you. *How is God calling you to bless your community in return?*

2nd Sunday of Lent

Give thanks this week for the ways your home blesses you. *How is God calling you to care for your home, your community, and our common home?*

3rd Sunday of Lent

Give thanks this week for the ways your family blesses you. *How do you bless your family? Where is God calling you to reconnect with or pray for family who are lost, in need of forgiveness, and where relationships have been broken or forgotten?*

4th Sunday of Lent

Give thanks this week for the ways your friends bless you. *In what ways are you a blessing to your friends? What unique gifts has God given you that bless your friendships?*

5th Sunday of Lent

Give thanks this week for the meaningful work you have in your life. *How does God call you in your work?*

Palm Sunday

Give thanks this week for your life, and your journey. *Consider the ways that God has called you throughout each step of your life's journey. In what ways is God calling you today?*

(adapted from [Episcopal Church UTO Lenten Calendar](#))

illuminating Triduum: Life in Community

Pray [visio divina](#), [lectio divina](#), and read a reflection on Acts 4: 32, 34-35, with *The Saint John's Bible*.

illuminating Good Friday: The Suffering Servant

Pray [visio divina](#), [lectio divina](#), and read a reflection on Isaiah 52:13-15; 53: 1-12, with *The Saint John's Bible*.

For your congregation

Practicing Lent through our Gifts & Callings

Encourage your congregation to get creative in their Lenten practices. How can our practices provide a space where their gifts, God's calling, and the world's needs meet?

- Women of the ELCA offer a guide to [knitting as spiritual practice](#). End Lent with a deeper prayer life and a hand-knitted scarf!
- Answer God's call to serve and preserve creation this Lent with a daily reflection-action calendar, "[Tread Lightly for Lent](#)," from PCUSA.
- Create and bless a sacred space that is truly your own with [this guide](#) from the Women of the ELCA. Maybe it's outdoors on the porch or in the garden; maybe it's in a favorite chair or room of your house.
- Tap into gifts that may have fallen by the wayside. Find time to engage in the arts, music, or weekly exercise. If it enhances your creative and spiritual life, seek out pockets of silence in your day.

United Methodist Church Lent 2019 Worship Planning Series: With All Your Heart

"During this season [of Lent], new and longtime Christians alike hear the call to return to God with all their hearts, thus entering a season historically characterized by much prayer and fasting... May your Lenten season be one of challenge, commitment, and support as the church responds to the call of God – "Return to me with all your heart" (Joel 2:12)."

Preaching Vocation in Lent

To Dust We Shall Return.....*To Bless Our Callings p. 180*

We Are Called to Forgive.....*To Bless Our Callings p. 181*

Vocation and Prayer.....*To Bless Our Callings p. 181*

Vocational Hymns for Lent

There is a Balm in Gilead

Text: Spiritual; Tune: BALM IN GILEAD

Verse 2: If you cannot preach like Peter, if you cannot pray like Paul, you can tell the love of Jesus, and say, "He died for all."

Led by the Spirit

Text: Bob Hurd; Tune: KINGSFOLD

Stanza 1: Led by the Spirit of our God, we go to fast and pray with Christ into the wilderness; we join his paschal way, "Rend not your garments, rend your hearts, turn back your lives to me." Thus says our kind and gracious God, whose reign is liberty.

In These Days of Lenten Journey

Text & Music: Ricky Manalo, CSP

Refrain: In these days of Lenten journey we have seen and we have heard the call to sow justice in the lives of those we serve.

Now We Remain

Text & Music: David Haas

Verse 4: We are the presence of God; this is our call. Now to become bread and wine: food for the hungry, life for the weary, for to live with the Lord, we must die with the Lord.

Where Charity and Love Prevail

Text: *Ubi Caritas*, 9th c. Tune: CHRISTIAN LOVE

Stanza 3: Forgive we now each other's faults as we our faults confess; And let us love each other well in Christian holiness.