

## LISTENING ALONGSIDE



## ECHOING CHRIST

### **Lenten Devotions 2017**

**Thursday,  
March 2, 2017**

Ashes of death  
on our foreheads,  
seeds of hope in our hearts.  
As we begin the journey  
beyond the cross,  
let us remember,  
God prepares us for life  
and not for death,  
for resurrection  
and not for crucifixion,  
for love and not for hate.  
In a world where death  
holds us bound,  
and violence seems to reign  
in thought and deed,  
may this journey of Lent  
get us ready,  
to be God's good news  
of hope and wholeness,  
and resurrection life

-Christine Sine

## Prayer

Forty days alone,  
a wilderness of thoughts,  
tempting and inviting thoughts,  
which could so easily have distracted you  
from your task, your mission,  
your vision.

Yet you emerged, stronger and more attuned  
to all that had to be done,  
despite a time constraint  
that to our eyes would have seemed hopeless.

We too live in stressful times.

Demands are made of our time,  
that leave so little  
for the important things of life.

We are easily distracted  
in the wilderness of our lives,  
by every call to go this way or that,  
to turn stone to bread  
leap from mountains,  
and do all that would keep us from the truth.

We listen to the voices of this world,  
and ignore the one who endured all this  
and so much more,  
and emerged triumphant,  
that we might not have to suffer so.

Forgive us, Father,  
when we get distracted from our task.

Forgive us those times when we try  
to be all things to all people,  
and fail to be anything to anyone

From [www.faithandworship.com](http://www.faithandworship.com)

### Jonah 3

The word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time, saying, "Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you." So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days' walk across. Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's walk. And he cried out, "Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!" And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth.

When the news reached the king of Nineveh, he rose from his throne, removed his robe, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in ashes. Then he had a proclamation made in Nineveh: "By the decree of the king and his nobles: No human being or animal, no herd or flock, shall taste anything. They shall not feed, nor shall they drink water. Human beings and animals shall be covered with sackcloth, and they shall cry mightily to God. All shall turn from their evil ways and from the violence that is in their hands. Who knows? God may relent and change his mind; he may turn from his fierce anger, so that we do not perish."

When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

### Romans 1:1-7

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.