

**MARCH 2017**

***The Journey of Lent***

Dear Friends,

We have begun our Lenten journey—a time of fasting, sacrifice, giving and penitence. Lent is a journey inward, to find our true selves. As we make that journey, we must inevitably pass through, recognize, and act on those parts of ourselves which give pain—both to ourselves and to others. It is a healing journey, one that brings reconciliation, positive action, forgiveness and love.

During Lent, we make some changes in our worship. **We use purple vestments**, the color of penitence and sorrow, as well as the color of royalty. As we are called into inward reflection, penitence and action over our wrong doings, we are at the same time reminded that true Kingship belongs to Christ, who calls us to him. **We suspend the use of Alleluias, of the Gloria and the Doxology.** These words and songs of praise reflect our great joy in being called as sons and daughters of God. We don't use these words and songs during Lent, not because we don't praise God or feel joy during Lent, but to show a more solemn or penitential facet of our lives of worship. At the Great Vigil of Easter we will return with gusto and great thanks to Alleluias, and Glorias with our most joyous voices of praise. Now, for the next few weeks, we are called to journey through Lent, to delve into our hearts, actions and priorities. All of these changes serve to encourage us in this special season of quiet, reflection and self-denial. They help to bring us into a prayerful reflection of our humanness and failures, but also to remind us of the loving grace of God that is always with us.

I pray that as you seek, you will find, in the stillness, in the quiet, and in inward reflection the love that God holds for you.

Welcome to this journey of Lent.

You sister in Christ,

Mother Bonnie+