



“FATHER INTO YOUR HANDS I COMMIT MY SPIRIT”

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Already we find ourselves in the third week of Lent. One of the beautiful traditions of our faith is the liturgical calendar that we journey through during the year.

As we pay attention to the seasons within it, we become more aware of the hills and valleys of our Lord’s walk with us, and we are challenged to come closer if we have drifted to the side, or fallen back.

As the body of Christ, St Andrew Church, we travel together, upholding and encouraging one another. Along this path of life, we lean in to hear our Lord’s words, to be touched by Him, and to share our experiences with others, hoping they will join us on our journey.

Lent began with our Ash Wednesday Service, in which the ancient words travelling across time entered into our hearts:

“we begin our journey to Easter with the sign of ashes, an ancient sign, speaking of the frailty and uncertainty of human life, and marking the penitence of the community as a whole.”

We are invited, in the name of the Lord, to observe a holy Lent by self-examination, penitence, prayer, fasting, almsgiving, and by reading and meditating on the word of God.

How long has it been since you let God have you? I mean really have you? How long since you gave him a portion of undiluted, uninterrupted time listening for his voice?

If you spend much time reading about the ‘listening life’ of Jesus a distinct pattern emerges. He spent regular time with God, praying and listening. Mark says, “Very early in the morning, while it was still dark Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed.” Mark 1:35

Let me ask. If Jesus, the Son of God, the sinless Saviour of humankind, thought it worthwhile to clear his calendar to pray, wouldn’t we be wise to do the same?

You often think of what you have to ‘give up’ in order to do this. Have you considered the other side of that equation ... what it is you will gain?

The Lord is in his holy temple: O come, let us worship!

The Rev Kim McArthur+

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