**LENT REFLECTIONS – GOD IS WAITING**

**Week 1: A Call to Repentance**

**Call to worship:**

Lent is an invitation once again to immerse ourselves in the teachings of our Lord.

Matthew 1: 28-30 says “Come to me all, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest… **learn from me**, for I am gentle and humble in heart and you will find rest for your souls…”

**Old Testament reading: Joel 2: 12-14a**

12“But even now,” says the Lord,
  “repent sincerely and return to me
    with fasting and weeping and mourning.
13Let your broken heart show your sorrow;
    tearing your clothes is not enough.”

Come back to the Lord your God.
    He is kind and full of mercy;
    he is patient and keeps his promise;
    he is always ready to forgive and not punish.
14Perhaps the Lord your God will change his mind
    and bless you with abundant crops.
Then you can offer him grain and wine.

**New Testament reading: Mark 1: 9-15**

 9Not long afterward Jesus came from Nazareth in the province of Galilee, and was baptized by John in the Jordan. 10As soon as Jesus came up out of the water, he saw heaven opening and the Spirit coming down on him like a dove. 11And a voice came from heaven, “You are my own dear Son. I am pleased with you.”

12At once the Spirit made him go into the desert, 13where he stayed forty days, being tempted by Satan. Wild animals were there also, but angels came and helped him.

14After John had been put in prison, Jesus went to Galilee and preached the Good News from God. 15“The right time has come,” he said, “and the Kingdom of God is near! Turn away from your sins and believe the Good News!”

**\*\*\*\*Silent reflection: GOD IS WAITING FOR YOUR RETURN\*\*\*\***

**Prayer**

Dear Father, I return now to you, [the Bible, and your Word](https://www.learnreligions.com/what-is-the-bible-700735). I pray for guidance as I listen for your voice. Let me return to what is most important—you. Help my attitude to change so that instead of focusing on others and events to meet my needs, I can turn to you and find the love, [purpose](https://www.learnreligions.com/whats-your-life-purpose-701565), and direction I seek. Help me to seek you first. Let my relationship with you be the most important thing in my life.

Thank you, Jesus, for helping me, loving me, and showing me the way. Thank you for new mercies, for forgiving me. I re-dedicate myself to you wholly. I surrender my will to your will. I give you back control of my life.

You are the only one who gives freely, with love to anyone who asks. The simplicity of it all still astounds me.

In the Name of Jesus I pray, thanking you with all my heart.

Amen.

**Hymn**

**H&P 524: I need thee every hour**

1.

I need thee every hour
Most gracious Lord
No tender voice like thine
Can peace afford

*I need thee oh I need thee
Every hour I need thee
Oh bless me now my saviour
I come to thee*

2

I need thee every hour
Stay thou near by
Temptations lose their power
When thou art nigh

*I need thee oh I need thee
Every hour I need thee
Oh bless me now my saviour
I come to thee*

3

I need thee every hour
Teach me Thy will
And thy rich promises
In me fulfil

*I need thee oh I need thee
Every hour I need thee
Oh bless me now my saviour
I come to thee*

**Grace**

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us now and evermore, Amen.