

An Ash Wednesday Letter from Pastor Dwayne

Entering the Passion of Ash Wednesday

“Lent is a time to enter into closer communion with God. Lent is a time of returning to God. It is a time to confess how we keep looking for joy, peace and satisfaction in the many people and things surrounding us, without really finding what we desire. Only God can give us what we want. . .Lent is a time of refocusing, of reentering the place of truth, of reclaiming our true identity.”

~Henri Nouwen, *Sabbatical Journey*, 112

Today is Ash Wednesday. As I awaken early today, before the noise of the day peaks, I realize I’m not ready for Lent. Advent, Christmas and Epiphany still seem so fresh, the lights of those seasons still shining. I feel drawn to go deeper into the seasons that have just passed. Yet Lent is saying “I’m here now and I have something to teach you.” So I say yes, I will enter the passion of this season. I don’t know what to expect. Yet I know what is most important. I know this one thing: the Inner Voice of Love says: “Through it all you are beloved.”

However you observe Lent, my prayer is that through these 40 days you will closely connect with your belovedness. You are wonderfully and awesomely created!

Each morning during Lent you will receive an e-devotional offered from various voices in the MCCDC Community. Some days it may be a poem. Other days it may be a meme or a song. The selections will be simultaneously published on MCCDC’s Facebook page. Our theme this year is drawn from the work of Marcia McFee and her Lenten Series: “Entering the Passion of Jesus.” I’m grateful to Rev. Dr. Robin Gorsline, MCCDC’s Writer and Theologian in Residence, for coordinating and editing this series. I’m thankful for the many gifted and sensitive writers of MCCDC for their submissions for this season. There are more openings for submissions. We welcome your contributions.

Our Ash Wednesday service is at 7 PM with the theme ““Entering the Passion of Ash Wednesday.” This service will invite us to consider the frailty of our dusty humanness, AND the sparkling glory of God’s presence shining through at the same time.

“From one mystery to the next and the next and the next,”

Rev. Elder Dwayne