

LENT STUDY (Mondays, 7pm, via Zoom)....here's the Zoom [LINK](#)

Weekly Format (Same Each Week)

1. Opening Prayer
2. Brief Sharing: Where did you notice God this week?
3. Engage the Selected Readings
4. Discussion
5. Practice for the Week
6. Closing Prayer

Week 1 (Feb 23, with Jonathan leading) — Faith That Is Shared, Not Owned

Read:

- Justin Duckworth — *The Prophetic Witness of Friendship*
- Maggie Swinson — *Belonging Together*

Theme

Discipleship is relational. Christianity spreads through friendship, not strategy.

Key Insight

The Gospel moves at the speed of trust.

Discussion

- Who first embodied faith for you?
- How is friendship itself a form of witness?
- Where is God inviting us to deepen belonging?
- Do you experience the Anglican Communion as a family or organization?
- When have you felt that you belong to 'something bigger' – beyond your own parish?
- As a worldwide Communion, how does that influence our prayer, actions, and giving (if at all)?
- What does discipleship (being a 'learner') mean to you? In what ways might we see our faith as part of a shared journey with other Christians (?Anglicans) around the world?

Practice

Reach out intentionally to one person — not to “do ministry,” but to share life.

Week 2 (March 2, with Bishop Helen leading) — Hope That Waits and Endures

Read:

- Interview with Annie Ittoshat
- Mark Short — *Waiting in Hope*

Theme

Faith grows in harsh landscapes — geographically and spiritually.

Key Insight

Christian hope is not optimism. It is endurance shaped by Christ.

Discussion

- What does perseverance look like in your context?
- Have you ever pondered whether there is a ‘better life’?
- Where is waiting part of your faith right now?
- What sustains communities where Christianity is costly?
- How can we be the hands of Christ in our communities?
- In what ways might hope be ‘more than wishful thinking’? What is your experience of hope / hopelessness right now?
- Read Romans 8:18-27. When do you feel the Spirit has helped you in a time of weakness or suffering?

Practice

Pray daily:

“Lord, teach me to wait faithfully.”

Week 3 (March 9, with Jonathan leading) — Discipleship Among the Least

Read:

- David Eisho Uehara — *Walking with the Least*
- Shane Parker — *When There Are No Words to Pray*

Theme

God is encountered most deeply in vulnerability.

Key Insight

Silence, suffering, and service are not failures of faith — they are its school.

Discussion

- What aspect(s) of what Bishop David Eisho Uehara wrote struck you most? Why?
- What aspect(s) of what Archbishop Shane wrote struck you most? Why?
- When has faith been wordless for you?
- How does serving others change how we understand God?
- Where is Christ already present among the vulnerable?

Practice

Perform one hidden act of compassion this week.

Week 4 (March 16, with Bishop Helen leading)

— The Thin Veil: Seeing God in Our Own Landscape

Read:

- Helen Kennedy — *The Expanse of the Thin Veil*

Theme

Lent teaches us to recognise God already present in our place, our land, our season.

Key Insight from Bishop Helen

The Prairie landscape reveals a spirituality of vastness, bareness, and slow transformation — a wilderness that strips away illusion so that resurrection may emerge.

Discussion

- How does our geography shape our spirituality?
- Where do you experience “wilderness” right now?
- What might God be growing unseen beneath the surface of our lives?
- How might we embody the ‘spaciousness’ described in the text within our own communities, making them places of renewal, inclusion, and transformation?

Practice

Spend intentional time outdoors this week — noticing, not rushing.
Let creation become prayer.

Week 5 (March 23, with Jonathan leading)

— A Community That Makes Resurrection Visible

Read:

- Anashuya Fletcher — *A Compelling Community*
- Anne Germond — *All You Need Is Love*

Theme

The Church is most alive when it embodies love concretely.

Key Insight

Resurrection is not argued — it is demonstrated through communities of grace.

Discussion

- What makes a Christian community compelling?
- What kind of community is being cultivated in your church?
- When have you witness the slow, steady work of God's grace in another's (or your own) life? How might that shape the way you accompany others along the Way?
- Where are we being invited to love more courageously?
- In what ways do you / can we practice agape love?
- What does 'intimacy with God' look and feel like for you? How is it given expression in your daily life / work?

Practice

Do something that strengthens community — hospitality, reconciliation, encouragement.

Week 6 (March 30, with Bishop Helen leading)

— Learning to Listen, Learning to See

Read:

- Riscylla Shaw — *Listening: a Lenten Devotion*
- Graham Tomlin — *Looking at the World with New Eyes*

Theme

Lent reshapes perception. Disciples learn to see the world sacramentally.

Key Insight

The goal of Lent is not self-improvement, but attentiveness to God already at work.

Discussion

- In what ways can we / do we allow God to ‘remake’ us? Whose help do we need?
- How can we be co-creators with God of our future together? What are the implications of that for our Diocese?
- Where do you see the presence of grace, mercy, and peace in the news right now?
- Where do you see evidence of pain and grief caused by shutting God out?
- How might we better point others to the presence of Christ?
- How has your awareness changed this Lent?
- Where do you now notice God differently?
- What will you carry into Easter?

Practice

Ask each morning of Easter Week:

“Where is resurrection already beginning:

- In my own life
- In the world around me?

Optional Add-On

Read Sarah Mullally’s Afterword together as a commissioning moment.

Invite participants to name:

- One thing they have **learned**
- One thing they will **continue**
- One place they feel **called**