



WATER IN THE DESERT



water in the desert



40 days of creative contributions from the
Christ Church Cathedral community and beyond

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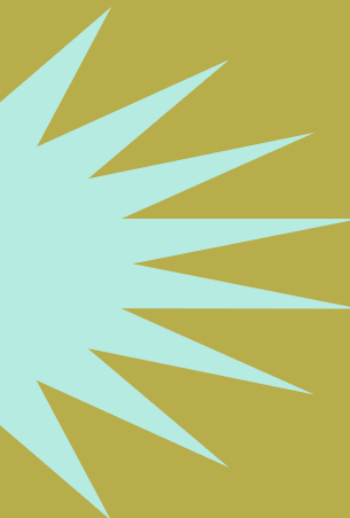
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INTRODU CTION

WHAT IS LENT?



Lent is a holy season of the liturgical year where the body of Christ around the globe intentionally enters into a time of fasting, self-examination, prayer, and works of love. As Christ emerges from the waters of baptism, he is immediately driven out into the wilderness for 40 days to be tested and purified, marking the beginning of his public ministry. And in the Hebrew narratives, the desert is the place where the people of God wander for 40 years after being delivered from slavery in Egypt, waiting for and wandering toward a new life and new land.

The wilderness is treacherous and disorienting. It is a place of liminality and deconstruction - the space in between where we have been and where we are going. All of us have to journey through the unknown at some point, and it's always hard, but it's the only way to get where we're called to go.

WHAT IS THIS PROJECT?

For each of the 40 days of Lent, our team, in partnership with the Liturgical Arts Collective, asked members of our significantly creative and insightful Cathedral community to read, reflect on, and respond imaginatively to their appointed scriptures for that day from the lectionary, holding in mind a general theme of unexpected sustenance in desolate places, or "water in the desert."

We find in the readings during this six-week season stories of angels tending Christ in the wilderness, quail and manna from heaven, plumes of cloud by day and pillars of fire by night to guide our wandering, water flowing out of rock...

In a chaotic, distracted, and fearful world, noticing beauty is like pure drops of water from heaven to the parched soul. Art and beauty can touch the deepest part of the human heart and aid our collective healing and liberation. The goal for this project was not to create a bunch of "really good art," (although the works are stunning,) but to build something meaningful together through our shared devotion, contemplation of scripture, and responding to the Holy Spirit in our midst through our various mediums. So within a few weeks of being prompted, we strummed, typed, smeared, scribbled, sang, scrapped, recorded, prayed, and listened, and this devotional is the result. We hope this is a gift to you, wherever you might be led, on your Lenten journey.



DAY 11
MAR 5/6

AGAINIAGA

BY ISAAC KARNS

CLICK
HERE FOR
SCRIPTURES
OF THE DAY

LYRICS:

*I'm askin' how can
these things be true
what you're saying to me
How can I crawl back inside
Or go back in time*

*Born again, born again...
got to be
you're tellin' me*

*To the day, from the night
out of darkness to the light
from the womb, a child again
close my eyes and touch the wind*

*Dawn is a birth
all over the earth
We get to practice our resurrection*

Got to, got to, gotta be...

"I wrote this song as a meditation; trying to get inside the mind and emotions of Nicodemus as he was talking to Jesus and having his whole context and worldview stretched to the point of bursting wide open. This is my attempt to capture the beauty, terror and amazement of hearing Jesus tell him he must be born again, offering both a confounding puzzle and a wide-open door."

Based on John 3:1-17

play
music

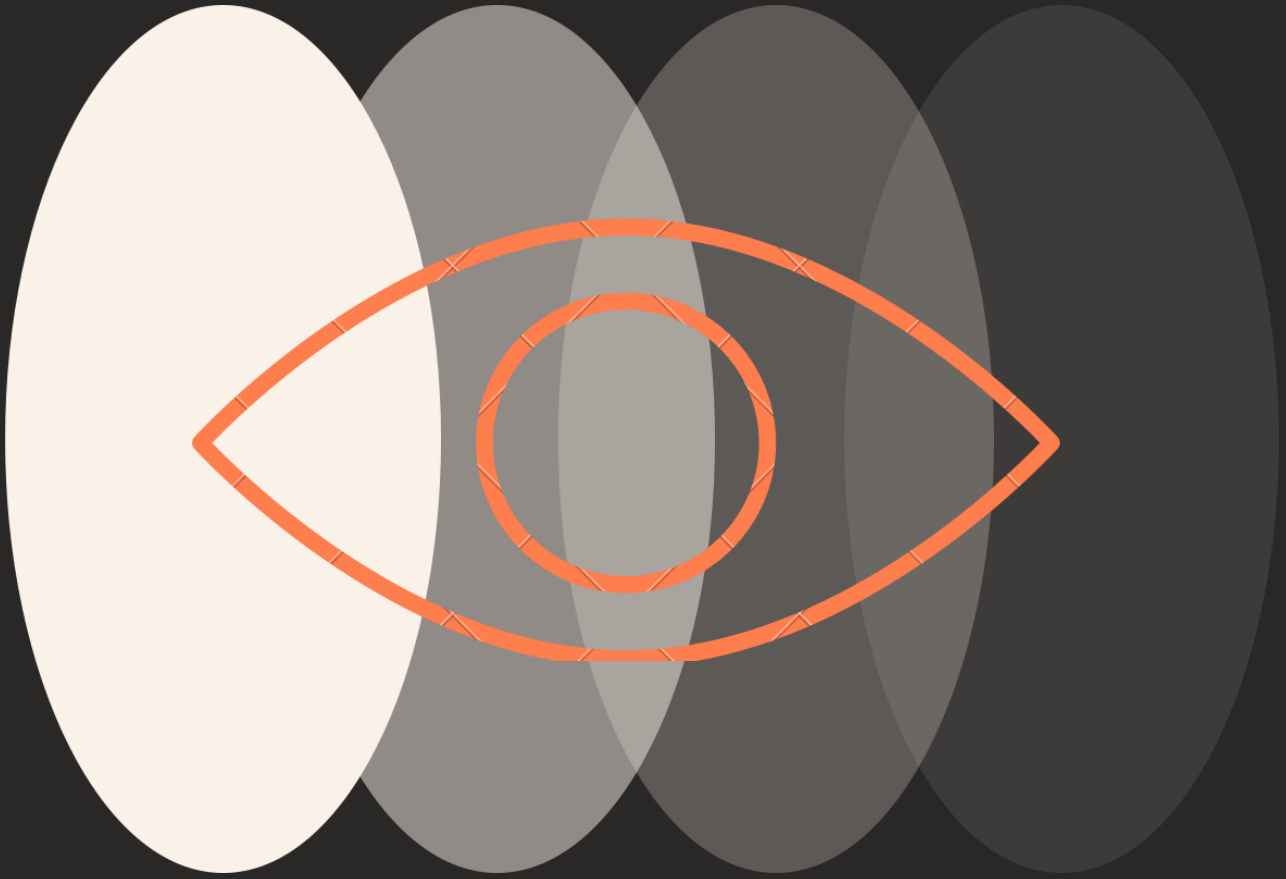


DAY 12
MAR 07

THE WORTH OF A SOUL

CLICK
HERE FOR
SCRIPTURES
OF THE DAY

BY DANYALE E. MARSHALL



I don't care what people think- I care what God knows and he says I'm worthy...

UNAPOLOGETICALLY HIS

What is the worth of a soul- we can't see your makeup on the inside pretty girl. Do you only care how it looks when the surface paints what we see? Do you know what it feels to be full when fulfilled? The heavy cake up of makeup can actually cost free? Do you know who you are- whose you are and who you is to he? Are you as real as your face in there because we can't see- but your real master can...are they pleased?

I WON'T PLAY TIT FOR TAT WHEN I ALREADY WON - YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO SO START.

PULL UP LAST ONE TAKES THE FIRST ONES PLACE- WE SEE YOU AND SO DOES GOD GREEDY GUS-

F A L L B A C K

SILICATE

DAY 13
MAR 08

BY BEN FLANDERS

*"THE VESSEL HE WAS MAKING OF CLAY
WAS SPOILED IN THE POTTER'S HAND,
AND HE REWORKED IT INTO ANOTHER VESSEL,
AS SEEMED GOOD TO HIM."*

JEREMIAH 18

Silicate. The word itself is sparkly, effervescent, silly even... In clay, "Silicate" refers to a system of aluminum and silicon plates lubricated by water, sliding past, and bonding to, one another.

Drying to a hardened shape, then wetted into formlessness again, then, in the kiln, a final, deadly firing. Hardened, frozen by fire, time stops for clay.

Potsherds from 16,000 years ago survive. Brittle, timeless vessels inevitably shattered into knifelike shards. We, too, are tangled up in aggregates. We bond to one another, sliding past, oh, so slowly, as if in geologic time.

For 16,000 years we have been carrying each other's water. Perhaps the inevitable fire is simply our final will and testament, leaving behind that of ourselves which can go forward without us. Carrying water for others, as it was carried for us, as we formed and reformed time and time again.



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HERE FOR
SCRIPTURES
OF THE DAY

LIKE CHAFF WHICH THE WIND BLOWS AWAY

BY ALEXEI FIRLIE

DAY 14
MAR 09

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SCRIPTURES
OF THE DAY](#)



Instrumental music
based on Psalm 1

what becomes of dreams

BY JOSHUA KRUER

DAY 15
MAR 10

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SCRIPTURES
OF THE DAY

Instrumental music based on
the story of Joseph and his
brothers (Genesis 37)

Feast, Deferred

BY AARON WEST

DAY 16
MAR 11

CLICK
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SCRIPTURES
OF THE DAY

They say a fattened calf was taken for the occasion,
that the blood and herbs danced around each other as though in waltz,
pools rainbowed like motor oil singing on rainy asphalt.
If you listened carefully, they say,
you could hear the cottoned thrum escaping over the hills.

You see the mockingbirds had hushed, as had the trees—
waiting, as though to catch a snippet of conversation;
a morsel to discuss over breakfast the next day.
What scandal—they'd say—that finally, there they were after all these long years:
just like that, as though it were a Thursday afternoon some humdrum week.

And so, the conversation would go, that after the revelry;
after the champagne corks had been plucked like dandelions from the yard
and the plates, stained as watercolor, stacked and waiting for renewal,
a change had come over the place.
That a tension in the air had dissolved.
For some, anyway.

It seems vicious. That we be asked to embrace them,
their arms folded like a drawbridge,
that the word forgive hangs in the air—a smog
forcing the hard-forgotten out of us, sweat from our pores.
Is this what all the fuss was about, this return?
That in place of peace we have quiet,
and for years of faith weaponized, nothing left but a
sigh?

Yet, there was a Feast.
There was the twirling mass, mingling,
to the din of couldn't-possibly-know.
They say there was a Feast
for the ages—didn't you hear?
And a homecoming
and a resolution for us all.
But I wasn't there.



CONTRIB UTORS



ISAAC KARNs

Musician, Producer

Isaac Karns is a music-maker that works from his studio called The Marble Garden in Cincinnati, Ohio. Isaac is a genre-agnostic, creative instigator and loves to bring play and intuition into his process. He lives in College Hill with wife Emily, son Moses (4) and daughter Salem (1.5)



DANYALE E. MARSHALL

Writer, Poet

I'm from Cincinnati and I enjoy spending time in my home playing games, listening to music and relaxing with people I love... when I'm not traveling 😊

BEN FLANDERS

Poet, Vocal Music

Ben Flanders has been a part of the Christ Church Cathedral family since he joined the Cathedral Choir in 2016. Apart from singing with the Choir on Sundays, he sings with Vocal Arts Ensemble and other musical organizations in the Cincinnati area, and founded and directs the art song collective Slavic Voices. He finds inspiration for his poetry in the poems of his mother Jane Flanders, as well as the poets and songs of Eastern Europe.





JOSHUA KRUER

Musician and Educator

Joshua teaches kids music programs around Cincinnati and works to restore the land locally with honeysuckle removal and native plant installations - more info at NatureWasHere.com



ALEXEI FIRLIE

Musician

Alexei is a musician/artist known at the cathedral primarily for their violin playing at the noon service. They have an ongoing fascination with words and with how language can either fit into structures that aid or oppress. This season during Lent, Alexei is meditating on the idea of wordlessness and how that can add more depth to their own understanding of words, music, and other forms of audio storytelling.

You can find more of their work and much more of their shenanigans on their Patreon, Bandcamp or Instagram [here](#).

AARON WEST

Educator, Poet

Aaron West grew up on the shores of Lake Erie and now lives in Cincinnati, where he teaches middle school English. He is passionate about Story and tries to advocate for those whose stories have traditionally been excluded. You can find him talking about books, writing, hiking, and cooking.



2023
LENTEN
DEVOTIONAL

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