

February 04

Once again, we have made our way through the dark to embrace this time when the sun is shortening her shadow day by day. The path of a new year summons us to take to the road again. In this season of lengthening days, we move from the fallow of winter to the vibrancy of spring. In the seasons of our faith journey, we take up the Lenten road as hope easters up in us.



As a commuter, I have come more and more to know myself as one who spends life 'on the road'. Although I drive the same piece of highway every day, the road is never the same. The slant of sunlight, the rise of moon, the shades of dusk, the brilliant canvas of dawn ... each of these wonders refuses to be static. Those I meet and those who cross my path are ever changing. The conditions of the road vary even across a single day. Though I have traveled this particular road innumerable times, the road that reaches toward home is ever new.

As a community of faith, we are people who spend our lives 'on the road' often making the path together as we go. In this season of Lent, we are inescapably summoned once again to pilgrimage. In the good company of all who have gone before us, we set one foot in front of the other and we travel:

- The path of faith that Abraham and Sarah travelled, trusting that the road never lost its capacity to surprise its travelers;
- The path of forgiveness that led Joseph and his brothers to a new beginning;
- The path through the perils of water and wilderness toward a promise;
- The path of justice courageously undertaken by the prophets who heeded their call to relentlessly speak truth to power;
- The path of expectation that threaded its way to the birth in the back waters of Bethlehem;
- The path of faithfulness that called a young man away from his home and family in the prime of life to a difficult desert discernment;
- The path of a prodigal too tired and hungry to do anything except to return to the one place he had known love;
- The path of the One whose resurrection we celebrate as we follow his footsteps toward Easter.

May you experience God's blessing as you journey through this holy time.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Mary', written in a cursive style.