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## Lent Week 1

### An appeal to God for a good conscience

In the midst of two stories we know so well, the story of Noah and the flood and the story of Jesus and his baptism we hear in the First Letter of Peter some teaching about the nature of our baptism. He speaks of it “not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a clear conscience through Christ.” (1 Peter 3:21)

Lent is a time for us to be especially mindful of any and every arrogance reflecting the thought that some peoples are superior to others. I speak of the sins of racism, ethnic cleansing, and government-enforced policies of assimilation such as what is happening to the Uyghur Muslims in China. Here at home simply living together with respect and love seems impossible as racism has become a political weapon and healing wounded

*Our Journey Together* will replace *Chapter and Verse* for the next 5 weeks

**Please join us tonight for:**  
Lenten Wednesdays

Our Lenten Pilgrimage  
(Spanish Language)  
6:30 pm

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Holden Evening Prayer  
8:00 pm

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hearts has been set aside in favor of stoking hate and division.

Lent is a season to confess these sins against our brothers and sisters. It is a time to correct attitudes, words, and actions, blatant or subtle that perpetuate them. It is a time to forge new relationships grounded in our baptismal vow to strive for justice and peace among all people.

To quote First Peter, Lent is a season of “appeal to God for a good conscience”, cleansed of the sins of prejudice, and cleared for respect and affection, one for another in accord with the Gospel we proclaim.

Pray with me, “For all false judgements, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us, accept our repentance, Lord.

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and School in  
Kissimmee*

These Lenten thoughts are  
drawn from ELCA Lenten  
meditations printed several  
years ago.)



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