



The Desert of this Past Year Lenten Question of the Week, Week One

In the desert of the past year, what has been most fulfilling for you?

That may sound like a strange question as you ponder the past year. It may sound like a strange question in the context of Lent. But in the Gospel for the First Sunday of Lent, Jesus spends time in the desert and then returns, proclaiming, "This is the time of fulfillment. The Kingdom of God is at hand. Repent and believe in the Gospel." Could it be that there are traces of fulfillment in the desert of the past year? Could it be that the radical shift in our schedules and way of life created some new encounter with the goodness of God?

What arrives as inconvenience, what presents as struggle, what brings upheaval in our lives often is an invitation to repentance, to be open to a new way of life. We find that if we can give in to it, there is conversion, and with it, fulfillment. It isn't always neat or clean. It isn't pleasant or even welcome all the time. But its redemptive spirit has been there.

Look through your calendar over the past year. Flip through some photos on your phone. Think back to holidays, or surprises that have come your way. Revisit conversations and good memories. In the desert of the past year, what has been most fulfilling for you?