



24th March 2019
THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT
Return to the Lord



SHARE
Share your highs and lows of the day, or respond to the following questions:

1

When do you find it hard to be patient?

2

Read Jesus' parable about the fig tree (Luke 13:6-8). How is God patient with us?

3

The gardener in the parable asked for another year to help the tree bear fruit. In what ways do you think God might like to see you grow or change in the next year of your life?

Devotions



READ Daily Bible Readings

S	Luke 13:1-9	Parable of the fig tree
M	Isaiah 55: 1-9	Invitation to the Lord's salvation
T	1 Corinthians 10: 1-13	Lessons from Israel's idolatry
W	Ezekiel 18:25b-32	Repent and live!
T	Hosea 14:1-7	Return to the Lord
F	Luke 3:1-9	The fruit of repentance
S	Psalm 34:11-22	Turn from evil and do good
S	Luke 15:1-3,11b-32	Parable of the forgiving father



TALK
Talk about the Bible verse. What word or phrase was important to you as you read these verses?

Rituals and Traditions



PRAY
Lord God, we turn to you. Please show us mercy. Amen.



BLESS
God is merciful and forgives your sins.

Lent

Lent is a time when we re-orientate our lives towards God. We follow Jesus in his journey towards the cross. PURPLE is the colour for Lent and represents the royalty of Jesus and the call to turn back to God.

Creative Response

The theme of repentance runs through the Bible readings for this week.

God gives us the Ten Commandments to show us his will for us, and to lead us to examine our thoughts, words and actions. In your home devotion times this week, listen together to the Ten Commandments and talk about what they mean.

- You shall have no other gods.
- You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.
- Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.
- Honour your father and your mother.
- You shall not kill.
- You shall not commit adultery.
- You shall not steal.
- You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.
- You shall not covet your neighbour's house.
- You shall not covet your neighbour's spouse, or their manservant, or their maidservant, or their cattle or anything that is your neighbour's

mealt ime prayer

Mealt ime is here, o what a spread! Thanks be to God, who gives us bread. Amen.

verse for the week

Turn to the Lord! He can still be found. Call out to God! He is near. Give up your crooked ways and your evil thoughts. Return to the Lord our God. He will be merciful and forgive your sins.

ISAIAH 55:6-7

Service



Make crosses from bars of soap as a reminder of Jesus' sacrifice to cleanse us from our sins. Draw a cross shape on each bar of soap, then carefully carve away the excess soap using a table knife. Place soap crosses in your bathroom. You could also place soap crosses in small gift bags to give away to friends and relatives.