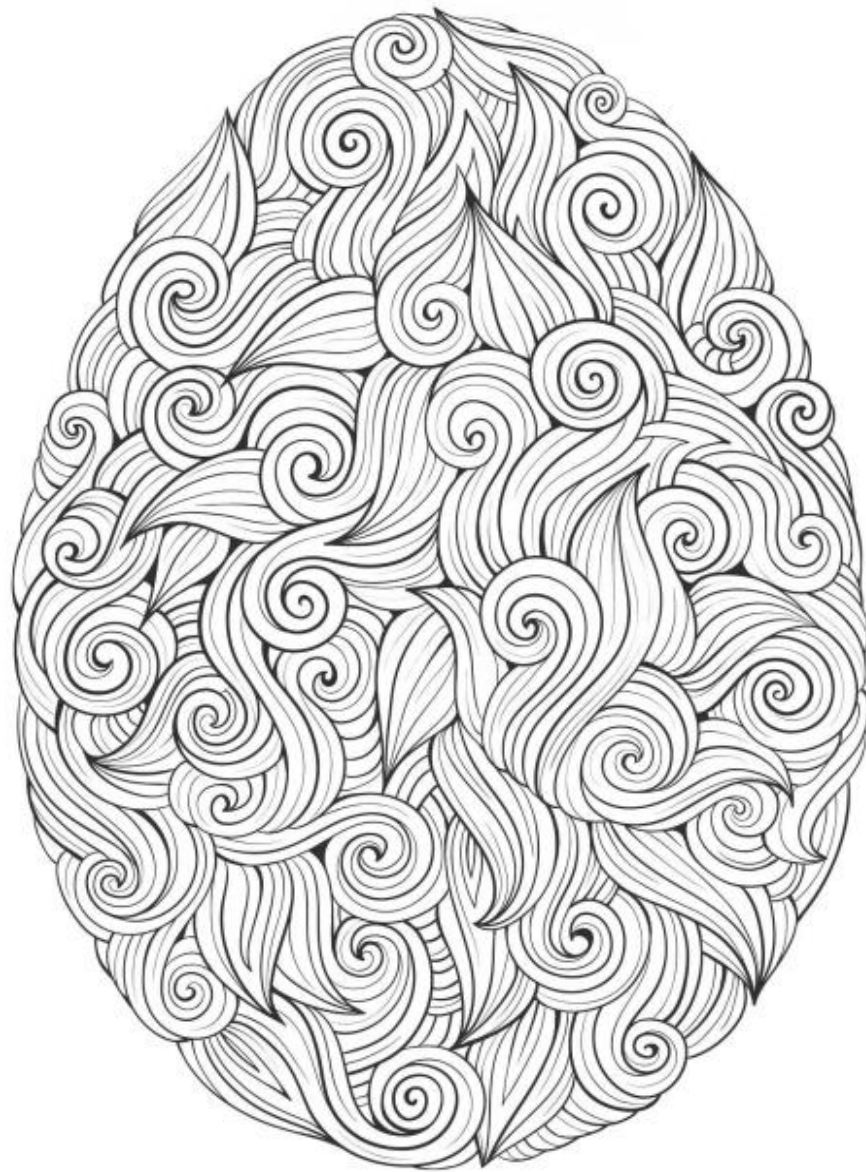


LENT IN A BAG - 2021

Welcome to Lent in a Bag
An opportunity to journey through Lent
as an individual, family or support bubble.
Within the bag you will find symbols of the
Lenten journey.



Happy Easter!

Just Color



This is *your* journey.

However you decide to use the items is up to you.
This booklet suggests some ways that maybe helpful.
If you are doing this as a family, most of the suggested
Bible readings will be found also in a children's Bible

May you have a blessed Lent
and remember that God loves you - always.

Prayer for the Beginning of Lent

Creator of my Life, renew me:
bring me to new life in you.

Touch me and make me feel whole again.

Help me to see your love
in the passion, death and resurrection of your son.

Help me to observe Lent
in a way that allows me to celebrate that love.

Prepare me for these weeks of Lent
as I feel both deep sorrow for my sins
and your undying love for me.

Amen



Easter Day - 4th April

Being Light - Candle

Lent begins in the dimness of late winter and ends with the burst of bright spring.

Jesus is according to John's gospel, "Light of the world" ([John 8:12](#)) and that Light, directing his attention to his disciples and through them to us, insists: "You are the light of the world, don't be hiding under some bushel basket" ([Matthew 5:14-16](#))

Light the candle

Where do you shine?
How do you keep your light lit?

Prayer:

Lord God, you who breathed the spirit of life within me.

Draw out of me the light and life you created.

Help me to find my way back to you.

*Help me to use my life to reflect your glory and to serve others
as your son Jesus did. Amen*



Good Friday - 2nd April

It is finished - Cross

"Then Jesus crying out with a loud voice, said: 'Father, into your hands I commend my spirit'".

Read the story of the crucifixion - [Luke 23:32-49](#)

Take the little wooden cross and trace your fingers over it. Hold it in your hand and feel its shape.

How can the cross remind us to trust in the way of love and know that we are not forgotten?

How can we dare ourselves to follow the way of love - the whole way?

Prayer:

In the silence may we hear your cry of abandonment; in the shattering of your soul may our brokenness be healed. Amen.

(Thom Shuman)

Prayer for children:

Lord Jesus, I'm sad that wicked men treated you so cruelly;

I'm sad that you were beaten and mocked;

I'm sad that your friends ran away and left you;

I'm sad that you were nailed to a cross and left to die;

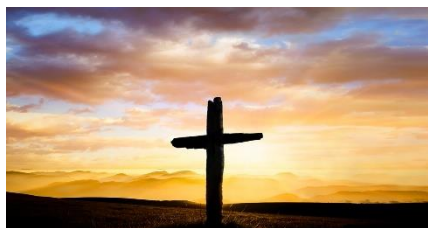
I'm sad you didn't even have a grave of your own, but a borrowed one;

But I'm glad, very glad, wonderfully glad,

That you came alive again and will never die.

Thank you, Lord Jesus, for bearing it all for my sake. Amen.

May this be a good Friday for you.



Lent 1 - week beginning 21st February

Into the Wilderness - Sand

Just between his baptism and the beginning of his adult ministry, Jesus went into the wilderness for 40 days, "to be tested".

Read the story of Jesus wandering in the desert - [Luke 4:1-11](#)

Open the sand and touch it

I wonder ...

Have you ever felt that you have been tested?

When have you walked on hard, barren or stony ground?

What have you learned there?

What might you learn there?

Prayer:

Holy God, help us when we walk through the difficult places in our lives. Help us to know that the closer we walk to you, the closer you will be to us. Amen.



Lent 2 - week beginning 28th February

Woman at the well - blue cloth

The Samaritan woman gives Jesus a drink of water. They speak together for a long time. He tells her about living water - to revive the spirit and bring hope. She believes and others believe because of her.

Read the story of the Woman at the well – [John 4:1-30](#)

Hold the blue cloth - the colour of life giving water

Who helped/helps you to believe?

Who do you know that needs life giving water - physical or spiritual?

Can you support a charity that works to provide clean water for all (eg Water Aid)?

Get in touch with someone who needs to know that they matter.

Prayer:

O God, may we thirst for your waters of justice, and learn to deny no-one the water of life. Amen.

(Janet Morley)



Maundy Thursday - 1st April

Journeying - footprint



Read the story of Jesus washing the disciples feet

– [John 13:1-17](#)

If you are journeying with other people - wash their feet and talk about this story as you do.

Or, reflect on the image below - how does it make you feel?

Write a prayer on your footprint



Palm Sunday - week beginning 28th March

Journeying - human figure

Although Jesus was God, he was also fully human, experiencing all the emotions, joys and sadness that we do. As you move through Holy Week remember that God knows you, sees you and loves you.

Read [Philippians 2:5-11](#)

Hold the human figure and reflect on the hymn "At the name of Jesus"

At the name of Jesus
every knee shall bow,
every tongue confess Him
King of glory now.
'Tis the Father's pleasure
we should call Him Lord,
who from the beginning
was the mighty Word.

In your hearts enthrone Him;
there let Him subdue
all that is not holy,
all that is not true:
crown Him as your captain
in temptation's hour,
let His will enfold you
in it's light and power.

What does it mean for you to bow your knee to Jesus today?

Prayer:

Jesus rode into Jerusalem not as a conquering king but in humility, the Servant King, ready to complete the task for which he had walked this world. Forgive us those times when we think too highly of ourselves and remind us always that you ask from us lives dedicated to service, to you and to our neighbours, wherever and whoever they might be. Enable us to take off our cloaks of self-righteousness and lay them down at your feet.

'Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord" – and you forgave the guilt of my sin.'

Psalm 32:5



Lent 3 - week beginning 7th March

Transforming Stony Places - Stone

While in the wilderness, Jesus was invited to transform stone into bread. Though he resisted temptation there and then, he became justly renowned for feeding people who were hungry for food, or for love, or for a word of encouragement, or for simple acceptance.

Read the story of Zacchaeus - [Luke 19:1-10](#)

Hold the stone

Might there be a stony place in you that needs transforming? Jesus transforms us and helps us make better choices. Is there a place in your life where you could make better choices?

Prayer:

Lord Jesus, help me to make better choices in my life. I ask that you will feed me and transform me. Amen.



Lent 4 - week beginning 14th March Mothering Sunday

Mothering Love - chocolate heart

This week the church remembers the mothering love of God. In the middle of Lent we give thanks for all who show us this mothering love - a strong love, a challenging love, an encouraging love, a healing love.

Reflect on these Bible Verses

Proverbs 23:25 NIV

May your father and mother rejoice;
may she who gave you birth be joyful!



John 19:26-27 NIV

When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to her, "Woman, here is your son," and to the disciple, "Here is your mother." From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.

Proverbs 31:25-28 NIV

25 She is clothed with strength and dignity;
she can laugh at the days to come.

26 She speaks with wisdom,
and faithful instruction is on her tongue.

27 She watches over the affairs of her household
and does not eat the bread of idleness.

28 Her children arise and call her blessed;
her husband also, and he praises her:

Take time to reflect and give thanks for those who have "mothered" you - physically and spiritually.

Enjoy the chocolate heart - or give it away to someone else!

Prayer:

*God of love, passionate and strong, tender and careful:
watch over us and hold us all the days of our life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen*

Lent 5 - week beginning 21st March

Baptismal Covenant - Shell

Historically, the season of Lent provided a time in which converts to the faith were prepared for the sacrament of Holy Baptism. Jesus began his ministry after his baptism.

Read the story of Jesus Baptism - [Mark 1:4-11](#)

Hold the shell

The shell is a symbol of baptism - often a shell is used to pour the water over the person to be baptized. The shell is also a symbol of pilgrimage

Do you remember your baptism? What have others told you about your baptism?

What does being baptized mean to you?

What difference does your baptism make in your life day to day? How are you living out the promises made at your Baptism?

Where are you on your pilgrimage of faith (just starting out, at a crossroads, walking alone or with others)?

Prayer:

Creator God, you are the source of all life and motivation.

May we journey in faith and love,

rejoicing and eager to serve you.

*Grant us a glimpse of your glory as we seek to follow you –
the Way, the Truth and the Life. Amen*

