

Worship Engagement and Devotion for week of March 20, 2022

READ : [Isaiah 55:1-9](#) and [Luke 13:1-9](#)

Full to the Brim, An Expansive Lent Week 3: You Are Worthy



Lent is a six-week journey that takes us to Holy Week and Easter. It is a season for renewing our faith. This year, our Lent worship and devotional material focuses on the theme “Full to the Brim”. The scriptures in Lent overflow with images and narratives that remind us of God’s abundant love, grace, and forgiveness. The invitation is simply that we will receive this gift that is so great it cannot be contained. We are like vessels placed in a running stream. The cool, clear waters of God’s love fill us to the brim and wash over us. Our Lent theme invites us to explore abundant, expansive grace. The Bible is brimming with the gospel of grace and so during Lent we are invited into a full life, a radically different life. We are invited to be who we are, to counter scarcity and injustice, and to spread love lavishly.

Like the fig tree, you are worthy. You’re not a lost cause. You’re not a waste of resources. You deserve audacious hope. You deserve to be nurtured. Your fruit will come. Like the gardener, you are invited to see others with audacious hope and budding potential. The lesson of the fig tree invites us to unpack the source of our worth in a system and society that often measures worthiness by commerce, production, output, success, status, achievement, ethnicity, and/or gender identity. We might ask, “Can the fig tree have worth even if it never produces any figs?” What does that mean for us if the answer is “yes”? Patience, nurture, asset-based thinking, and audacious hope are counter-cultural practices needed for an expansive life.



Questions for Reflection:

- Do you think God is more like the vineyard owner or more like the gardener? Why?
- Rev. Larissa Kwong Abazia questions why the fig tree is planted in a vineyard. She concludes that the fig tree has been “planted only so that no inch of the ground is squandered.” Who in your midst is living a “fig tree existence”? What patterns and systems need to be disrupted in order to invest in a fruitful Creation for everyone?
- What practices help you disentangle your worth from your productivity? What practices remind you of your inherent worth?
- When have you acted like the landowner, seeing someone or something as a waste of resources? What does it look like to practice audacious hope in these circumstances? Adapted from SANCTIFIED ART FULL TO THE BRIM SERMON PLANNING GUIDE

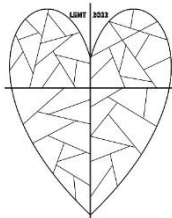
Spiritual Practice: Lent Photo-A-Day

Lent Photo-A-Day
Ash Wednesday – Easter Sunday
Based on the Full to the Brim: An Expansive Lent
Daily Devotional Cards

March	2-Real	15-Refuge	25-Image	3-Love Boldly
3-Safe	16-Free	26-Love	27-Welcome	4-Inspire
4-Joy	17-Longing	27-Welcome	28-Grace	5-Heartfelt
5-Practice	18-Rest	28-Grace	29-Call	6-Share
6-Wilderness	19-Space	29-Call	30-Receive	7-Beauty
7-Temptation	20-Sabbath	30-Receive	31-God's Table	8-Intentional
8-Choose	21-Worth	31-God's Table	April	9-Brave
9-No	22-Belonging	April	1-Overflow	Holy Week
10-Yes	23-Remember	1-Overflow	2-Courage	10-Cry Out
11-Desert	24-Second Chances	2-Courage		11-Pay Attention
12-Season				
13-Gathering				
14-Protector				

Share your photo each day and tag Faith United with #faithnorthcanton or #faithunited.
Draw your word on the Praying in Color Lent coloring page.
www.myfaithunited.org

Participate in the Lent Photo-A-Day Challenge. You will find a word on the Lent Photo-A-Day image that connects with our Lent theme, Full to the Brim. These words are inspired by the Daily Lenten Prayer Cards. Take or find a picture, scripture, song, or a poem that expresses this idea. You might also want to create your own image with paint, crayons, clay or other art and nature materials. You



may also want to draw or doodle your word each day on the Lent Heart calendar provided by the author of Praying in Color.

We invite you to share on social media and tag the Faith United: #faithnorthcanton or #faithunited.

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