

2017 penning for 'Lent through Easter'

Lent and Easter are somewhat late this year. In some years there may be light snow as we worship on Ash Wednesday to start our quiet, contemplative Lenten journey. Yet this past long winter had been so bitterly cold that all we look forward to getting back to warmth at this Lenten season, to prepare ourselves for the coming of full-blown spring in Easter.

As we think about it, this in fact is also what the paradoxical liturgical seasons of Christmas through Easter signify. As we move on from Christmas and Epiphany (coinciding with our entry into the New Year and all our corresponding new ventures and business – even in the parish, we were busily working on last year's ministry statistics and reports as well as preparing for 2017 Vestry Meeting with election of this year's Parish Council), many of us got trapped at the valley of spiritual sluggishness pending a new upward swing during Holy Week and Easter. This is not to mention that some parishioners had not been able to attend church regularly every Sunday due to the extreme weather and its inhibitory snow-fall and icy ground. Deep down in our soul we all long to get back to our 'spiritual spring-time' of being able to gather together for worship as a familiar congregation every Sunday, in communion with God and with each other, so as to regularly feed our hunger for God and to nurture our response to walk God's way through Christ.

Lent is finally here, for us to satiate this our longing. Let's make best use of our time and efforts this Lent to be re-shaped for new life in Easter, by following Christ to take up our cross to walk through death, steeping in the faith that we profess and live! Have a blessed journey to Easter!

In Christ,

Paulina Lee



2017 大齋節至復活節牧者隨筆

今年的大齋節和復活節都較往年遲來。以往有時在塗灰日（大齋首日）的崇拜之際，會忽然下起雪來，正好助我們踏進這以靜思迎接聖週和復活節的大齋期。然而，過去這嚴寒（甚至是冰封）的冬季卻叫我們渴望這大齋節中有溫暖，好準備身心來迎接復活節帶來的「春回大地」。

事實上，從聖誕節到復活節這些教會年曆的節期我們所走過的旅程，也讓我們經歷到靈性上的起伏波動。因為聖誕節期以至顯現節期正好是我們走過忙碌的假期和新一年開始要辦的各樣事務，就連教會也忙於作去年的事工報告和計算統計數字，並安排新一年的牧區議會選舉工作，因此我們當中不少人都疏於靈性上的照顧，似乎要等到聖週和復活節始讓靈命從低谷中重新向上調。更不要說到因為寒冬而有不少教友未能如常地每週參加主日崇拜。在心靈的深處，我們都亟盼早日能讓靈命回到春天的境界，在崇拜中叫心靈得到不斷的滋養，好能事主愛人。

幸而我們終於等到大齋節的降臨，且讓我們好好善用這大齋節作靈性操練，叫我們重新恢復活出復活的生命：以跟隨基督背負十字架走過死亡進入新生，好好活出我們的信仰！謹祝願大家都有一個蒙福的大齋旅程而得嚐復活生命的甘甜！

主內，

李志敏

