

March 1, 2016

Dear Grace Church Family and Friends,

As we move deeper into this season of Lent, I wanted to share a prayer from Thomas Merton, a Trappist monk, poet, social activist and spiritual counselor.

Lent is a time to recommit ourselves to a closer relationship with God, acknowledging we are not always as faithful to God as we might be, or could be. Sometimes, we go down the wrong path in life, and when that happens, we need God's help. We need God's love, God's forgiveness, and we need to trust in God, believing God will show us the way and lead us home.

That is the essence of this holy season, and also what is known as the Merton Prayer:

*My Lord God,  
I have no idea where I am going.  
I do not see the road ahead of me.  
I cannot know for certain where it will end.  
nor do I really know myself,  
and the fact that I think I am following your will  
does not mean that I am actually doing so.  
But I believe that the desire to please you  
does in fact please you.  
And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing.  
I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire.  
And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road,  
though I may know nothing about it.  
Therefore will I trust you always though  
I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death.  
I will not fear, for you are ever with me,  
and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.*

Wishing you a life-giving Lent,  
Andrew