

March 14, 2017

Dear Grace Church Family and Friends,

With last night's snowstorm, the church office is opening late today, so I am home, preparing for Sunday's sermon.

The Old Testament reading comes from Exodus, as the people of Israel wander through the Wilderness, slowly making their way toward the Promised Land. They come to a place known as Rephidim, which is in the middle of absolutely nowhere, and the people of Israel are thirsty. Like the rest of the Wilderness, Rephidim, is hot and dry, a desert with very little water – no wells, no watering holes, no place for the Israelites to even dig for water. It is a moment that tests the Israelites' faith, as their most basic human need forces them to confront God and question God's promises.

But, as the Old Testament scholar, Walter Brueggemann, writes, "That is what Lent is all about, is it not?... to come face-to-face with God in need because there is no alternative. Lent is not about guilt or even about repentance or giving up some convenient extra. It is rather about the raw, deepest need in life."

As we continue our own journey through the wilderness of Lent, what is your raw, deepest need in life? And, have you confronted God about it? Talked to God? Questioned God?

If not, now is the time.

See you in church,  
*Andrew*