

Dear Clergy and Lay Leaders in Youth Ministry:

Please take a moment to read this message from the National Church about Creating Space for Grace:

Creating Space for Grace

This devotion is a guide to help “create space for grace” through the season of Lent. Grace is a shorthand way of speaking of the incredible love of God. John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, understood grace as God’s mercy that comes to us, even though we do not deserve it. It is a free gift.

Like receiving an unexpected present from our grandparents on Christmas morning, we are often surprised by grace. When we are given such a gift, our natural response is to feel guilty since we do not have a gift to give in return. But like the Christmas gift, grace is given out of love and we are invited to receive it with no strings attached.

Lent offers us an opportunity to create space for grace. It is a season of the Church that spans forty days beginning on Ash Wednesday and goes through Easter Sunday. For early Christians, Lent was a time to prepare for baptism which only happened on Easter Sunday morning. It was marked by a time of prayer, self-reflection, and preparation for Easter.

The devotions in Creating Space for Grace are written by students at LaGrange College to help you in your turning toward God’s grace.

As you make your way through this guide over the next forty seven days (we have included Ash Wednesday and Sundays) we trust that you will be led to reflect on ways that you can create space for grace in your lives.

If you wish to receive a free daily e-mail meditation during Lent, please send an e-mail to gwilliams@episcopalchurch.org with your e-mail address as the subject line and the words “join meditations” in the body of the e-mail.

A free PDF download of the Lenten Guide is available on the Higher Education Ministries Arena website at www.higheredmin.org/meditation.html. The myp@epicom.org list is operated by the Ministries with Young People cluster of the Episcopal Church Center. For more information about our work, visit us at www.episcopalchurch.org/myp. To join the list, send a blank message to join-myp@epicom.org. To leave the list, send a blank message to leave-myp@epicom.org.

Thank you for your support for youth and their spiritual development,

Sincerely,

Susannah

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