

Opening prayer for the *Lectio* for the first Sunday in Lent

Welcome once again to our Saturday Lectio Gathering. It is amazing and deeply consoling to all of us, I think, what a far-reaching and bonded community we have become over the past year. We continue week after week to weave currents of spiritual energy around our earth by the power of our communal reflection and prayer, the trust of our sharing, the depth and fidelity of our growing communion. Today, as the liturgical door opens into another Lenten Season, we go with some reluctance into the desert with Jesus – way too long, it seems, have we been in the desert. We long for Resurrection! So, we pray: Beloved God of the ancient covenant you made with Noah, we carry your promise in our hearts like a shining rainbow. Through floods and storms, in perils of every kind, on seemingly endless desert treks, hold on to us, keep hope alive in our hearts as a witness to your unfailing presence, and empower us, by our presence to your Word and to one another, to cut deep grooves of conscious relationality, communion, and compassion in the evolutionary path we are treading, so that others can and will follow, so the consciousness of more and more people will be transformed, and the desert of this time will open into a new era, an era where truth and promises, commitments and fidelity are valued, where every person of every race, every woman and man and child, every creature that lives, is enfolded in a covenant of love and equality and care. We pray for this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen