



Lent 2023 at St. Alban's

This year, during Lent and Easter, we will explore the theme of wilderness: physical, emotional, spiritual. Join us for some or all of the following events, as together we go "into the wilderness" with Jesus this spring.

Sunday Morning Lenten Book Study: We share our planet with creatures magnificent, delicate, intricate—and now vanishing at a faster rate than at any other time in Earth's history. You are invited to spend this Lenten season with Gayle Boss's book *Wild Hope: Stories for Lent from the Vanishing*, which shares the stories of 25 endangered species. Their true and difficult stories will wake readers to a greater compassion—which is what Lent, meaning "springtime," has always been for. The promise of Lent is that something new will rise. In fact, as these stories attest, our hope, though wild, is not impossible and is already loose in the world. *Wild Hope* by Gayle Boss can be purchased from your preferred bookseller – order your copy today. A digital version is also available. Each Sunday during Lent, we will meet downstairs in the youth room at 9:15 a.m. to reflect together on what we are reading, according to the schedule:

Sunday, February 26: Discuss pages 1-31	Sunday, March 19: Discuss pages 69-85
Sunday, March 5: Discuss pages 33-49	Sunday, March 26: Discuss pages 87-103
Sunday, March 12: Discuss pages 51-67	Sunday, April 2: Discuss pages 105-125

Stations of the Cross: Each Friday in Lent, we will meet at noon to enter the wilderness and walk the Stations of the Cross trail in the wooded area behind St. Alban's. Meet at the trailhead near the SEEDS garden shed. The walk will last approximately 20 minutes. We will meet rain or shine, so come dressed for the weather, in sturdy walking shoes. On nice days, feel free to bring your lunch and enjoy it together at the picnic tables at the end of the trail.

Weekly Reflections: Check your email each Sunday throughout Lent to receive weekly reflections on the theme of "Into the Wilderness..." written by members of St. Alban's. Each reflection will be paired with an image by artist and St. Alban's parishioner Elizabeth Bradford, whose paintings explore the natural world, capturing what remains of the undeveloped South.

Holy Hike: We're excited about our upcoming Lenten "Holy Hike" on Sunday, March 26 at 2:00 p.m. at Lake Norman State Park, weather permitting. Members of Episcopal Student Fellowship from the college are planning to join us. The "hike" will be a mile-long jaunt along one of the trails at the park. The trail is designated as "easy" - it has some slight ups and downs and there are sections with tree roots that need to be stepped over/around. Immediately after we conclude the hike, we will have a brief outdoor Eucharist together. **Getting there:** Put "Lake Norman State Park Visitor Center" in your mapping program for directions. It's about a 30-minute drive from Davidson. Soon after entering the park, you will cross over a bridge. The Visitor Center is on the left just beyond the bridge. We will gather in the Visitor Center parking lot – the trailhead is at the south edge of the parking lot, just east of the Visitor Center.

Palm Cross Event: Please join us at 9:00 a.m. on April 2, Palm Sunday in the narthex to make Palm Crosses and have some refreshments! We look forward to a great time of fellowship!

What Did I Do? April 30 Book Study: The work of anti-racism is another kind of wilderness. As we navigate unfamiliar terrain, we ponder the question, "What should I do?" and some day we will look back on this time in history and ask, "What *did* I do?" The answer will differ for everyone - and that's OK. Save the date for a discussion of Jemar Tisby's book *How to Fight Racism: Courageous Christianity and the Journey Toward Racial Justice* on Sunday, April 30 at 12:00 p.m. in the youth room downstairs. This book has been called "a concrete road map to a more just and merciful society" as well as "an invitation to a journey of love." We encourage all parish members to contemplate this book over Lent and come together for this conversation in Eastertide. Scan the QR code to visit the StAART website.

