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**Week 2**

Wednesday 24th February 2021

Reflection 02

*Rend your hearts*

Our reading this week comes from Joel 2.12-13:

*“Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing”* (NRSV)

This is a very fitting reading for us this week. We have had one week of Lent so far now and we hear again God’s call for us to return to him. God is calling every one of us again and again. Like the father in the parable of the prodigal son, he just wants us to come home and he cannot wait.

What he wants however, is not an outward show! He doesn’t want a declaration that tells the world that you want to return to him with all your heart. He simply wants you. He simply wants you to turn your heart to him, return with all of your heart, so that he can see. Not the world, this is just between you and God.

You may think that your sin is too great or that it’s been too long since you last prayed, or you may have doubts about God. That’s OK. God is gracious, he is merciful. He is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. His strong and unwavering love is not going anywhere.

We indeed may be fickle and ever-changing.

God is steadfast, unmoving and constant. We can trust him.

 **Father God,**

Thank you for your love. I’m sorry for all of the times that I have turned away and not followed your way.

But here I am, turning back to you.

 