

# The Daily Church Epistle

## Monday, April 4, 2022

Lenten Final Thoughts  
By Lynn Barbeau

It's hard to believe that in one week we will be entering into Holy Week. Where have the 40 days of Lent gone? It seems like they have flown by. I just ran across this Lenten Prayer by Joyce Rupp. She is a wonderful writer. Check her out if you haven't read anything by her. I hope that I can give you a new idea for the last two weeks. And hope that your 'love deepens and expands' as you get ready for Jesus and on Easter Sunday when we shout 'Alleluia'!

Do you know someone who will be alone on Easter and lonely because their family is far away or they don't have one? (A widow without children, a college student who can't go home, or a single neighbor or coworker). How about inviting them to church with you and then a brunch at your home? It is an excellent way to share Christ's message and a way to live your faith. Join your spirit with others as Joyce mentions in the second paragraph. In the third paragraph of this prayer we are urged to respect and treat compassionately the lonely, distraught and disdained. By welcoming others into our hearts aren't we welcoming as Jesus would want us to - "the least of our brothers". If you can't invite someone to accompany you to church and have a meal with you, how about contributing to the Easter dinners that the church offers for Easter. Have a Blessed Easter and I hope that your love of Christ deepens and expands! Enjoy the stories of the risen Christ and celebrate! I also pray that you can get something from the Prayer Walk that I will set up for next week. You are welcome to come anytime the church is open during or Holy Week.

Thank you for your sacrifice Jesus to save us from our sins!

***A Lenten Prayer*** by Joyce Rupp  
From [joycerupp.com](http://joycerupp.com)

In the passing of the seasons,  
phases of the moon, rising and setting  
of the sun, and the stars glowing in the universe,  
may my love deepen and expand.

In the voices of people,  
who have become central in my heart,  
who tame the rough edges of my hidden self,  
may my love deepen and expand.  
In the faces of strangers and passerby, in each human  
whose spirit joins invisibly with my own,  
may my love deepen and expand.

In the lonely, distraught, and disdained persons longing to be

respected and treated compassionately,  
may my love deepen and expand.  
in the unity that resides among everything that exists upon  
and within this beloved planet we call "our Earth",  
may my love deepen and expand.

In the moments when the truth of my inherent goodness  
reveals itself and send me forth to be kind to others,  
may my love deepen and expand.  
In the silent prayer of my heart when I pause to be in  
deliberate relationship with you -  
the Holy One who guides my life,  
may my love deepen and expand.

In graced situations when the truth of my unfinishedness  
and the lack of being all I could be comes to greet me,  
may my love deepen and expand.  
In the motivation found inside the journey of Jesus, his  
compassionate life,  
and the generous way he responded to others,  
may my love deepen and expand.

In the heartbeat of home  
coming from stories of the risen Christ,  
a steady Light-filled presence living on within me,  
may my love deepen and expand.  
In the moment, this day, this place, this time,  
this body that is mine,  
when I repeated open my mind and heart to you,  
may my love deepen and expand.

Guide of my life, may I be as present to you are as you are to  
me. In giving myself to the process of spiritual growth, I trust  
you will show the way to live as my truest self. In all I am  
and all I do, my heart rests in you abiding love.  
Amen