



### **March Minister's Message**

Lent often arrives while the world still feels caught between seasons. The days are slowly growing longer, yet the ground remains cold and hard. Trees stand bare. Gardens look empty. And yet, beneath the surface, something holy is happening.

Spring reminds us that what appears dormant is not dead. Beneath frozen soil, roots are strengthening. Seeds are stirring. Life is quietly preparing to rise. This is the work of resurrection.

During this Lenten season, our congregation is leaning into that same hidden work through our small group book study, *The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry*, with our weekly sermons paralleling its themes. Lent invites us to slow down, not as an act of withdrawal, but as an act of trust. Trust that God is at work even when nothing seems to be happening on the surface.

Hurry convinces us that productivity is the measure of worth and busyness is the sign of faithfulness. Lent gently tells another story. Through practices like Silence and Solitude, Sabbath, Simplicity, and Slowing, we are learning to create space - space where God can breathe new life into us. These practices may feel countercultural, even uncomfortable at first. Like winter soil, they can seem quiet, empty, or unproductive.

But God does some of God's best work in hidden places.

As we eliminate hurry, we are not losing something essential; we are making room for what truly matters. We are allowing roots to grow deeper. We are trusting that rest can be faithful, that stillness can be spiritual, and that slowing down can prepare us for new life.

Easter will come. Resurrection always does. And when it does, it often reveals that the transformation began long before we could see it.

May this Lenten season be a time when you trust what God is growing beneath the surface of your life. May you find hope in the waiting, peace in the slowing, and confidence that even now, God is preparing something new.

With gratitude for this shared journey,

Pastor John

