

EASTER 2023 - DRAW NEAR

APRIL 2

SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINE:

Intentional Time in Nature - Go on a walk or simply sit in a garden and focus on looking for God. Where do you see death in nature? Where do you see new life beginning to grow after a long winter? How can the new life of nature remind us of the new life found in Jesus Christ.

TIPS:

- The goal is to be aware of God around you. Walk through nature, or simply sit in a garden and listen. What do you hear? What do you see? Where is God in nature?
- Don't get in a hurry. The goal is not the destination, but to pay attention to God on the journey. Don't be afraid to stop during your walk and sit with God for a time.
- Spring is a time when you see death and life in nature. Meditate on and compare how new life in nature reminds us about new life in God.
- You don't have to be silent, but you do want to be present in the moment. Allow yourself to be open to God around you.

PRAYER:

God, it is the week leading up to Easter. Holy Week. Passion Week. We dread your death on Friday, knowing our sins took you to the cross. We long for the empty tomb on Sunday, knowing your resurrection is but the first fruit which ultimately allows us to rise from the dead as well. Just as the flowers and trees are budding to life again, we can find new life out of the death of our sins and mistakes. Help us to find strength in the reminders of new life around us. As we see the flowers bloom and hear the birds sing in the trees, may these be reminders that through Jesus you are also making all things new. Help us to embrace the truth that through Jesus, our sins will not be held against us, but instead we are invited into a new creation life now. May your love shine out of us as we become new creations in our neighborhoods, pointing always toward you. Amen.