

Lent 2026 February 25: Return to Me: Considering Our Ways

Come By Here Lord ← playing while people arrive

Hag. 1:5 *Now, therefore, thus says the LORD of hosts: Consider your ways. 6 You have sown much, and harvested little. You eat, but you never have enough; you drink, but you never have your fill. You clothe yourselves, but no one is warm. And he who earns wages does so to put them into a bag with holes.*

7 *“Thus says the LORD of hosts: Consider your ways. (ESV)*

and in the Message: “Take a good, hard look at your life – Think it over. 6 You have spent a lot of money, but you haven’t much to show for it. You keep filling your plates, but you never get filled up. You keep drinking and drinking and drinking, but you’re always thirsty. You put on layer after layer of clothes, but you can’t get warm. And the people who work for you, what are they getting out of it? Not much — a leaky, rusted-out bucket, that’s what. ...

“Take a good, hard look at your life. Think it over.”

These words from Haggai are not spoken in anger, but in love.

They are not a demand to try harder, but an invitation to slow down.

Lent is a season of paying attention.

Not to shame ourselves —

but to notice where our souls feel thin.

Where we work and work, yet feel empty.

Where we hurry, yet feel behind.

Where we fill our lives, yet still hunger for more.

God’s question is simple and kind: *How is your way of living shaping your heart?*

Psa. 139:23 *Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts!*

24 *And see if there be any grievous way in me, and ^wlead me in ^xthe way everlasting![#]*

Psalm 139 reminds us that we are already fully known.

Before we confess, before we change, before we understand —

God has searched us and loved us.

So we do not examine ourselves alone or afraid.

We pray with trust:

“Search me, O God... and lead me in the way everlasting.”

Tonight we make space to notice, to listen, and to return.

Song: Create in Me a Clean Heart video

As we reflect on these verses and lyrics, do we focus on:

Our busyness vs fruitfulness (or lack of it)...

Or the good things that crowd out better things...

Where are we defensiveness and what sore does this show...

On God’s loving kindness in His patience and naming our misalignment...

I'm going to lead us in a short prayer of confession. Join me in the liturgy,
The prayers will be followed by a time of silent contemplation. Ask God to bring up anything
that needs confessing or pray for others who are being tempted in this way.

Leader: God of mercy, you ask us to consider our ways.

People: **Slow us down so we can truly see.**

Leader: Where we have been busy but not fruitful—

People: **Search us, O God.**

Leader: Where we have filled our lives but not our souls—

People: **Search us, O God.**

Leader: Where fear or defensiveness keeps us from you—

People: **Search us, O God.**

Leader: Lead us out of what drains us,

People: **And into the way everlasting.**

Leader: Refine us, not to harm us,

People: **But to make us whole.**

All: **Create in us clean hearts, O God,
and renew a steadfast spirit within us. Amen.**

Chris Tomlin: Lord, I Need You

Ask God to show you an area of misalignment or a priority that is off — just one. Selah

Hold that gently before God. No fixing. Just offering. Selah

Let us pray together:

Lord, we return to you.

Take what is hurried and make it steady.

Take what is scattered and make it whole.

Take what is empty and fill it with your presence.

Lead us in your way. Amen.

My Heart is Yours - Passion

Make Me New (Prayer Room) ← end reflective piece with option to leave or pray

Come By Here Lord

1 Come by here, my Lord, come by here.
Come by here, my Lord, come by here.
Come by here, my Lord, come by here,
O Lord, come by here.

2 Someone needs You, Lord, come by here.
Someone needs You, Lord, come by here.
Someone needs You, Lord, come by here,
O Lord, come by here.

3 Someone's prayin', Lord, come by here.
Someone's prayin', Lord, come by here.
Someone's prayin', Lord, come by here,
O Lord, come by here.

4 Someone's cryin', Lord, come by here.
Someone's cryin', Lord, come by here.
Someone's cryin', Lord, come by here,
O Lord, come by here.

Create in Me a Clean Heart

Create in me a clean heart, oh God
And renew a right spirit within me
Create in me a clean heart, oh God
And renew a right spirit within me

Cast me not away
from Thy presence, oh Lord
And take not Thy holy spirit from me
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation
And renew a right spirit within me

Create in me a clean heart, oh God
And renew a right spirit within me
Create in me a clean heart, oh God
And renew a right spirit within me

Cast me not away
from Thy presence, oh Lord
Take not Thy holy spirit from me
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation
And renew a right spirit within me

Create in me a clean heart, oh God
And renew a right spirit within me
Create in me a clean heart, oh God
And renew a right spirit within me

Cast me not away
from Thy presence, oh Lord
Take not Thy holy spirit from me
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation
And renew a right spirit within me

Lord, I Need You Song by Chris Tomlin

Lord, I come, I confess
Bowing here I find my rest
And without You, I fall apart
You're the one that guides my heart

Lord, I need You, oh I need You
Every hour I need You
My one defense, my righteousness
Oh God, how I need You

Where sin runs deep, Your grace is more
Where grace is found is where You are
And where You are Lord I am free
Holiness is Christ in me
Yes, where You are Lord I am free
Holiness is Christ in me

Lord, I need You, oh I need You
Every hour I need You
My one defense, my righteousness
Oh God, how I need You

So teach my song to rise to You
When temptation comes my way
And when I cannot stand I'll fall on You
Jesus You're my hope and stay
And when I cannot stand I'll fall on You
Jesus You're my hope and stay

Lord, I need You, oh I need You
Every hour I need You
My one defense, my righteousness
Oh God, how I need You
Lord, I need You, oh I need You
Every hour I need You
My one defense, my righteousness
Oh God, how I need You
My one defense, my righteousness
Oh God, how I need You

My Heart Is Yours Song by Passion, Kristian Stanfill

I give You my life
I give You my trust Jesus
You are my God
You are enough
Jesus Jesus

My heart is Yours My heart is Yours
Take it all Take it all
My life in Your hands

My heart is Yours My heart is Yours
Take it all Take it all
My life in your hands

I lay down my life
I take up my cross Jesus
You are my God
Whatever the cost Jesus
Oh, Jesus

My heart is Yours My heart is Yours
Take it all Take it all
My life in Your hands

My heart is Yours My heart is Yours
Take it all Take it all
My life in your hands

All to Jesus I surrender
All to You I freely give
Oh, I will ever love and trust You
In Your presence I, I will live Lord

All to Jesus I surrender
All to You I freely give
Oh, I will ever love and trust You
In Your presence I will live

My heart is Yours My heart is Yours
Take it all Take it all
My life in your hands

(Oh God) My heart is Yours
My heart is Yours
Take it all Take it all
My life in your hands
My heart is Yours (Lord)
My heart is Yours
Take it all Take it all

My life in your hands
You can take it all Take it all
My life in your hands

Make Me New (Prayer Room)

Lord of this creation, high above it all
Try as I might, I cannot climb to You
Victor over darkness, bright and sacred One
Try as I might, I cannot hide from You
Every thought inside my head
Every temptation that I've met
No nothing, nothing surprises You

Sanctify me, purify me
Here's my heart and all that I am Lord
Take the old me, make me holy
And whatever You do
Don't just make me better, Lord make me new
Don't just make me better, Lord make me new

King and righteous Ruler, Seerer of my heart
Try as I might I cannot lie to You
Gracious loving Father, Shepherd of my soul
When I return, You always welcome me back home
Every thought inside my head
Every temptation that I've met
No nothing, nothing surprises You

(Lord will you) Sanctify me, purify me
Here's my heart and all that I am Lord
Take the old me, make me holy
And whatever You do
Don't just make me better, Lord make me new
Don't just make me better, Lord make me new

I repent, I repent I fall on my knees again (X4)

Break every vain desire, selfish ambition
Pride of life and need for attention
Clean my hands and bring Your deliverance
Lord make me new

Break every vain desire, selfish ambition
Pride of life and need for attention
Clean my hands and bring Your deliverance
Lord make me new Lord make me new
Sanctify me, purify me

Here's my heart and all that I am Lord
Take the old me, make me holy
And whatever You do
Don't just make me better, Lord make me new
Don't just make me better, Lord make me new