



We are so grateful you have joined us today as we come together to worship God. Though we cannot worship in the same space, we can learn to observe Sabbath anew and learn the value of personal/private worship. Although we aren't together physically, we are still the church together. Our worship has been recorded and can now be viewed on our website, <http://NewHopeAgoura.com/> or you can click on the link below, or paste it into your browser:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hw7tCeyKx9M>

### **Welcome and Opening Prayer**

**Music:** "Be Not Afraid"

Aleta Braxton, soloist

David Cohen, pianist

**Scripture:** John 11:1-45

Linsey Niebolt

Jesus is moved to sorrow when his friend Lazarus falls ill and dies. Then, in a dramatic scene, he calls his friend out of the tomb and restores him to life.

**Message:** "Wilderness – Life in Unexpected Places"

Pastor Craig R. Beeker

### **Reflection**

Deacon Lynn Bullock

THE WILDERNESS IS A PLACE OF NEW LIFE—RESILIENT LIFE

**Music:** "The Lord is My Light"

Aleta Braxton, soloist

David Cohen, pianist

### **Prayers**

Deacon Lynn Bullock

### **Lord's Prayer**

### **Benediction**

# Wilderness

LENT 2020

## The Fifth Week of Lent

THE WILDERNESS IS A PLACE OF  
NEW LIFE—RESILIENT LIFE

I used to think the wilderness would never end.  
I called my mom and asked—  
“Does time really heal all wounds?  
Do the pieces ever fall back into place?  
Does the wilderness go on forever?”

So she told me about the horizon.  
She said, “There is an edge,  
Where the earth meets the sky.  
And when you’re there,  
You will see daisies in the sidewalk  
And the sun after the rain.”

I asked her to draw me a map  
And she cried,  
Because she knew this road was mine to walk,  
But she promised to wait for me,  
Day in and day out,  
For as long as the wilderness raged.

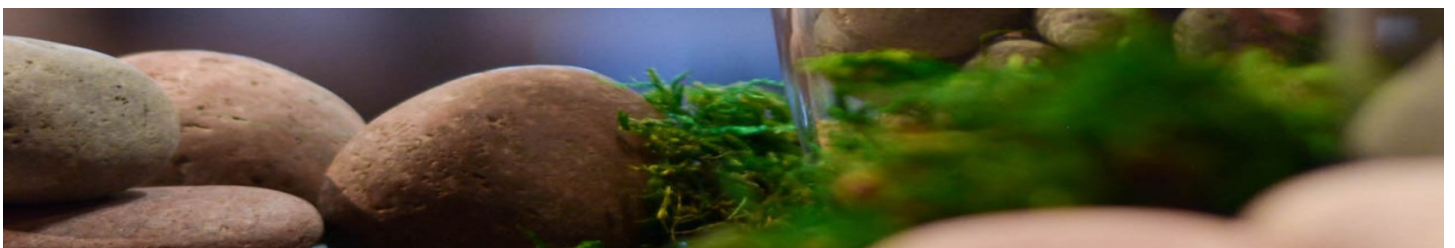
So I walked.  
And it felt like forty days and it hurt  
like forty nights.  
And I waved to the people I passed there  
in the wilderness.

We tipped our hats to one another,  
Silently recognizing the weight we  
each carried,  
Until one day, I realized—  
The earth always kisses the sky.  
And this wilderness has turned into a garden,  
And I have made it out alive.

And my mother hugged me,  
There at the earth’s edge.  
And she whispered in my ear,  
That God was that gardener,  
And that I had nothing to fear.

So if you ever ask for a map,  
Know that God and I will be planting seeds,  
Hoping to turn your wilderness into a garden.

For as long as the wilderness rages on,  
I will never stop looking for you  
Where the earth kisses the sky.



# LET GO WITH GRACE

## A SIMPLE UNBINDING DEVOTION



### Name Your Burden

What makes you feel sad, anxious, powerless, or trapped? Breathe into this question as you discern what's weighing you down.

### Ask for Strength

Write your burden on a strip of cloth, wrap it around your hand, and pray for God's help to let it go.

### Leave It Behind

When you're ready, unbind the cloth, tie it to the frame provided, and leave your burden behind — a symbol of your faith in God's grace to help you live unbound.

### A Prayer of Release

*Lord, you are a God who makes all things new. Strengthen me; unbind me from the messages that try to control me. Walk with me; help me to live whole and to care for your gifts of body, mind, and spirit.*

*Amen.*