

FIVE LENTEN PRAYERS

By Jennifer Phillips¹

LENT 1

God, whose hands have molded all the earth;
bring us to that place of discernment
that we may never mistake the tinsel of the world
for your glory,
nor bow to that which is evil,
nor offer stones to those who hunger for bread,
but rather, serve you with a Sabbath mind
and worship you only;
through Jesus Christ, your Word near us. *Amen.*

LENT 2

God of generative joy,
replenish us in barren times,
lead us out of our habits of captivity
and into your country of promise;
in trouble, in emptiness of life, in sorrow,
let us never be separated from you,
that we may build in the wilderness an altar
and offer our whole hearts
to your renewing fire
and delivering mercy;
through Jesus Christ who gave himself for us. *Amen.*

LENT 3

God whose unpronounceable name is Life;
when your people were a barren tree
you fed and watered us;
when we wandered in fear
you led us by fire and promise and your law;
when we gave ourselves up to corruption,
you drove evil out of us and raised us up
through your Anointed One, Jesus,
our Rock and Salvation;
through whom we give you praise! *Amen.*

¹ From *Gleanings: Essays on Expansive Language with Prayers for Various Occasions*, edited by Ruth A. Meyers and Phoebe Pettingell (New York: Church Publishing Inc., 2001) pp. 80-81. Phillips may be reached at revjphillips@earthlink.net.

LENT 4

God, by your love our eyes are opened,
our hunger fed, our sin forgiven,
and our wickedness overthrown;
may we so celebrate your blessing
as ambassadors of your gladness
that by our hands
the fragments of community may be gathered
and the lost welcomed home;
through Jesus our Reconciler. *Amen.*

LENT 5

Living God, you break into our mortal loneliness
by your coming among us.
You clothe the dry bones of our lives
with the flesh of your new creation,
and from our fearful tombs
you call us to come out and live unbound;
through the power of Christ's resurrection,
in whose strong name we give thanks. *Amen.*