

***The Wilderness is Somewhere We've Been Before***  
*by Sarah Are*

I'm not the first.  
That's what I tell myself when I  
wake up in the wilderness—  
Big sky, worried heart,  
wondering which way to start.  
I have been here before.  
We have been here before.  
For as long as there has  
been creation,  
There has been wilderness.

First it was an endless void,  
Until God and God's paintbrush  
painted the sky gold.  
And then it was all that lies  
east of Eden,  
Which is everywhere that our  
story unfolds.

So like a child memorizing  
their home address,  
You'd think I'd learn my way  
out of this wilderness.  
But like the Israelites who  
wandered for forty plus years,  
I think I'll spend most of my  
day to day here.  
For the wilderness is  
everywhere that I start  
to grow.

Cracks in the sidewalk, daisies  
take hold.  
And the wilderness is every  
single place of unknown,  
Or when shame and fear move

And the wilderness is where  
dusty feet tread,  
Familiar with the truth that  
we have days left.

So where is God, you ask?

God is in the big sky and in  
my worried heart.  
God is the sidewalk cracks  
where new life starts.  
God is in the realization that  
I am not the first.

So may we take these  
limited days left  
And remember that we've  
been  
here before—  
God and I and this  
untamed world.  
God and the Israelites and  
the gathered assembly.  
God and the horizon and  
the new day beginning.

my

Central

United Methodist Church

into  
home.

***Celebrating 185+ years of Serving God,  
Serving others, and Loving All***



***Welcome to Worship!***

***March 5, 2025  
Ash Wednesday***

*Central UMC is a fully inclusive church that seeks, embraces,  
educates, worships, and serves all in God's love.*

We welcome all persons to this time of worship,

and we pray that this time will be a blessing to you.  
If you wish to learn more about Central and its ministries,  
Welcome folders are available at each entrance/exit  
to the Sanctuary, and in our Welcome Center.

### **Wilderness: State of the Wild**

### **Ash Wednesday: Day of the Lord**

March 5, 2025 ~ 7:00 pm ~ Central United Methodist Church of  
Endicott



### **Gathering of the Community**

Gathering Music

*Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness arr. Dan Forrest*

A Call to Lenten Practice

- Lighting the Candle of Peace, Hope and Justice

Centering Music

Introduction to Worship

Singing Together #2138

*Sunday's Palms are Wednesday's Ashes*

Opening Prayer

### **Proclamation of the Word**

Scripture Reading Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 (NRSV)

Special Music

*Lamb of God arr. F. Melius Christiansen*

Reflection on Scripture

Response to the Word

Singing Together #474

*Precious Lord, Take My Hand*

### **Holy Communion**

Invitation to the Wilderness of Lent

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord's Prayer

Breaking of the Bread

Sharing of the Bread, Cup and Ashes

### **We Go Forth**

Singing Together #411

*Dear Lord, Lead Me Day By Day*

The Good Word

Postlude

*Abide with Me arr. Emily Lund*

*Worship Leaders: Pastors Teressa & Paul  
Music: Roger Richards, Sean Stafford, Chancel Choir  
Many thanks to the Ushers and Tech Team for today.*