

LENT: WILDERNESS

March 22, 2026

Youth-Led Worship



Jeremiah 29:11-14

¹¹For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. ¹²Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. ¹³When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart, ¹⁴I will let you find me, says the LORD, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, says the LORD, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile.

REFLECT & DISCUSS

1. Read the passage slowly. Then take a deep breath and read it again. What word, phrase, or image stands out to you?
2. This passage is written to a people suffering in exile. The Babylonians have conquered Israel, removed their leaders and many families from Jerusalem and Judah. The people have seen their country fall apart and their faith in God's protection falter. So then, what kind of hope is this verse about? How is it rooted in the realities of human anguish and resilience? In what ways might we find ourselves in need of a similar hope in our own time?
3. These verses are not written just for an individual—they are addressed to “y’all.” Each “you” is plural. How does that community context impact what hope, healing, and restoration mean? How might entire communities in our own day need hope, healing, and restoration?
4. Jeremiah declares that the awful situation Israel is facing does not break God's covenant commitment to God's people.

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Even if the leaders were corrupt and arrogant, many people were exploited and uncared for, and too many had also turned from Yahweh—and thus invited destruction upon themselves as a foreign empire invaded—still, God remained faithful to them, and would work for their restoration and redemption. How do you see that divine commitment reflected in the story and person of Christ?

5. In what ways have you experienced God working in your life through trouble and heartbreak, hurt and hardship, for your healing and restoration?
6. Looking forward, what is bringing you hope in the year ahead?
7. The people of Israel were not promised an immediate hope, but a “future hope” that would take generation(s) to experience. What long-term hope and restoration are you committed to, working for, or trusting God to bring about?