

A Mid-day Meditation

From

Sue's Perspective

*"I give thanks without ceasing to my God, who kept me faithful in the time of my testing..."*

- From *Confession* by Patrick

Today we celebrate Patrick, Bishop of Ireland. There are lots of stories about St. Patrick, some true and some folk lore. But how many know that Patrick was kidnapped and taken to Ireland by pirates? He eventually got back to England, became a priest and returned to Ireland. That's the very short version of St. Patrick's story. As with many others who were part of the early church, his life was not without its challenges.

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As we look over the span of our lives, I'm sure we all can find times of testing. Those times may have been long ago or more recent. Those times may have been catastrophic in nature or mildly annoying. Regardless, they are times when we and our faith have been at loggerheads. Think back to a time in your life where you might have declared...

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We are coming to the end of our Lenten journey. We are preparing to enter the exhilaration of Palm Sunday, a week from Sunday. We are girding ourselves for the chaos of Holy Week and all that comes with it. These are the days when the followers of Jesus were tested to the limit. These can also be times when we are tested to the limit. Do we run away from our own Calvary – whatever that might be? Do we deny that we know the so-called criminal, who has committed no crime? Do we stand among the crowd and cry out, "Crucify him" and then realize what we have said? These upcoming days can be days of great testing for all of us. They are a time to think – seriously think about our relationship with Jesus. Instead of wondering, "What do I do now" reach out and declare...

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