



April 2019 Reflection: Pilgrimages

‘Marci have you ever been to the desert?’ That was a question posed to me by my Hebrews Scripture professor as we were deep into studying the book of Isaiah.

We were talking about stumps, something that comes up a lot in that book of the Bible. I told him that when I heard Isaiah talk about stumps, I visualized the nursery stumps of the Pacific Northwest, rich and alive with new growth. He clarified that the stumps in the desert where Isaiah was from were much more like the stumps found on the cover of the book ‘The Giving Tree’.

That conversation sparked a deep desire to go to the desert, the birthplace and origin sites of so many of the stories of the bible that I found myself immersed. I dreamed of not only experiencing the desert but also of walking the streets of Jerusalem and praying at the sacred sites that have drawn pilgrims from Christianity, Judaism and Islam for centuries and of going to the places where Jesus was born, where he taught, where he healed.

It’s taken many years to pull it off but this April, the day after Easter, I will head off on that pilgrimage. I will be going with an interfaith group of Christians, Jews and Muslims and seeing that spectacular holy place through the eyes of many faith traditions. I hope to not only experience the desert but also the thin places that have called the faithful for thousands of years.

Knowing that I will be in the land of thin places, in some of the holiest of holy places...if there is a prayer request that I can carry with me for you to offer up in that especially thin place please let me know. I would be honored to carry it and offer it up in that holy place.

Rev Marci