



# Lenten Prayer of Longing and Return

**Focusing**

**Scripture - Joel 2:12-13**

Return to me with all your heart,  
With fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;  
Rend your hearts and not your clothing.  
Return to the Lord, your God,  
For he is gracious and merciful,  
Slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

**Lenten Psalm of Longing**

I thank you, O God,  
For the warming of the winds  
That brings a melting of the snow,  
For the daylight hours that daily grow longer  
And richer in the aroma of hope.  
Spring lingers beneath the horizon  
As approaching echoes of Easter  
Ring in my ears.

I lift up my heart to you, my Lord,  
In this season of Lent  
That gently sweeps across  
My sluggish and sleeping heart,  
Awakening me  
To a deeper love for you.

May the wind of the Spirit  
That drove Jesus into the desert,  
Into the furnace of prayer,

Also drive me with a passion  
During this Lenten season  
To enkindle the fire of my devotion  
In the desert of Lenten love.  
Birds above, on migratory wings,  
Signal me to an inner migration,  
A message that draws me homeward bound  
On Spirit's wings  
To the heart of my Lord.  
May I earnestly use this Lenten season  
To answer the inner urge  
To return.

### **Reflection/Intercessions**

#### **Closing Prayer**

Lord of our heart, give us vision to inspire us.  
Lord of our heart, give us wisdom to direct us.  
Lord of our heart, give us courage to strengthen us.  
Lord of our heart, give us trust to console us.  
Lord of our heart, give us love to mission us.  
Lord of our heart, give us grace to root our lives in You.

Amen