

# The Work of the People

## **FORTY DAYS**

### *A Journey Through the Desert of Lent*

Before light, there is darkness; before birth, there is pain. Before many of our meaningful moments there is a time of preparation, a time of longing. The Christian season of Lent is the forty days set aside (from Ash Wednesday through Holy Saturday) to enter into the wilderness of our souls and seeking quiet, openness and emptiness. Lent is more than a period of self-denial and giving up indulgences; it is about preparation and encounter. It was in the desert where Jesus encountered the demons of his deepest temptations, but it was also where he found God's sustaining presence and love.

These poems are stories about finding home. Jesus's journey is also like our journey, an attempt to capture the place of longing in every heart; it is an attempt to go back to the garden. However, as we make our way through life, we come to realize that Eden is a distant dream, a reality that we might not ever come into being. We either become cynical or attempt to build our own paradise. In contrast, Jesus's life was not about this long-lost garden, but something greater—a new Eden, a new Jerusalem—a *new Kingdom*. In order to find this new home, though, the journey might take a detour through the wilderness, and what we may find there may test the very core of who we are.

This series reflects on poems for Ash Wednesday, Lent, and Holy Week. The discussion guide offers an opportunity for reflection, discussion, and entering into places of our hearts we might not often journey. We hope these guides give you a place to begin the journey of your hearts, a journey that will lead you out of Lent and to Palm Sunday, Good Friday, and into the hope of Easter.

Phuc Luu

All films in this series are written by Kelly Hall and Phuc Luu except "Remember That You Are Dust," written by Phuc Luu. All films are filmed by Josh Spires, narrated by Jeremy Wells, music provided by Aural Method and produced, directed and edited by Travis Reed.

#### SESSION TITLES AND FILMS

Remember That You Are Dust // ASH WEDNESDAY

Never Alone // LENT ONE

Away from Home // LENT TWO

Oasis // LENT THREE

Leaving Ourselves at the Altar // LENT FOUR

Watering Dry Bones // LENT FIVE

Scattered Palms // PALM SUNDAY

Where the Light Ends // GOOD FRIDAY

Setting Out Once Again // EASTER SUNDAY