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## From the Pastor's Desk.....

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*I have set my bow in the clouds,  
and it shall be a sign of the covenant  
between me and the earth. (Genesis 9:13)*

This Old Testament text is surely one of the most beautiful images evoking God's everlasting love. For the ancient Hebrews the rainbow that appears in the sky after the storm is more than a phenomenon of nature, it is a powerful and enduring symbol of the covenant. The covenant is a two-way relationship – God's pledge of love and our response in love.

The story of the flood depicted in Genesis is extremely old and shares with other ancient Near Eastern mythologies a depiction of a primordial flood. The cosmology of these ancient civilizations saw the flood as symbolic of chaos.

Chaos looms large in our own day: the destructive powers of nature unleashed in the recent fires and cyclones; the ever present chaos of war and terrorism, pestilence and disease, debilitating sickness and depression, domestic violence and family breakdown.

But the message of the Bible, told over and over again, is that God is mightier than this chaos. Moreover, the love of God cradles the universe – nurturing, sustaining and holding it in being.

As we enter these 40 days of Lent I suggest that the struggle is not so much about us trying to overcome our human weaknesses as it is a struggle to believe in the overwhelming love that God has for us.

This faith in God's covenantal love is expressed in the following prayer:

The breakers of death surged round about me, the sorrows of the nether world enmeshed me. In my distress I called upon the Lord, and from God's holy temple my voice was heard (from the Monastic liturgy).

***Peace and blessings,  
Gerard***