

Station Two Reflection: Brokenness

You are made of the Earth. Which means that you belong here. But the Earth, our world, is quite broken. We have become fragmented by things like racism, environmental destruction, and political tribalism. But it isn't just something that plays out in the news. The brokenness of our world has very real impacts upon our personal lives.

We make jokes and degrading comments about people who see the world differently than us. We have been trained to look out for our own gratification over others, and so we pass on moments to help our neighbors in need...whether that is someone who is living on the street, or a classmate who is being bullied. We get into fights with the people we love most, closing our hearts, because we would rather win and be right than lose and be wrong.

Ash Wednesday, and all of Lent, is a time to reflect on this brokenness...both in terms of our world and in our personal lives. We do not do this so that we will feel bad about ourselves. We do not do this so that we will despair and lose hope for the world. Rather we do this because healing, restoration, and reconciliation can only happen once we are honest about the brokenness. Jesus once said, "the truth will set you free." It is, of course, a little more complicated than that. Healing, restoration, and reconciliation involve more than just truth telling. But those processes cannot even begin until we tell the truth.

So this Lent, what brokenness do you need to tell the truth about?

What brokenness in the world or in your life do you need to name and be honest about so that healing, restoration, and reconciliation can begin?

At this prayer station you see some shattered pottery or some stones for younger children. Choose one that can symbolize this brokenness. Pick it up. Feel the weight of the stone...or notice the sharp or jagged edges of the shattered pottery. Can you imagine what these pottery pieces once were when they were whole?

Speak the brokenness that is on your heart today into this stone or pottery shard. Say it out loud...or speak it honestly in your heart. For the purposes of this prayer walk, let this object symbolize that brokenness. Take it with you on your walk, you will do something with it at a later station. Reflecting on our brokenness is not the end of the story...it is only a part of the beginning.