

*The Lay Reader's Script for Forth Sunday in Lent*

*April 3rd, 2022*

**Lay Reader: Carolyn Padgett**

After the Prelude, please say:

**The days ahead are dark and full of foreboding.**

We watch as Jesus journeys to the cross.

**There is no way to change what is to come.**

Yet death has not the final word.

**Let us bear witness to God's new life**

**moving within and among us.**

God is doing a new thing.

Let us rejoice and give thanks! Amen.

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After the Gloria Patri, and after everyone is seated, please say:

**“Let us pray our Prayer of Illumination”:**

**. Almighty God, in you are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. Open our eyes that we may see the wonders of your Word; and give us grace that we may clearly understand and freely choose the way of your wisdom; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**And now the First Reading, Isaiah 43:16-21**

**Thus says the Lord, who makes a way in the sea,  
a path in the mighty waters, who brings out chariot and horse,  
army and warrior;  
they lie down, they cannot rise,  
they are extinguished, quenched like a wick:  
Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old.  
I am about to do a new thing;  
now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?  
I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.  
The wild animals will honour me, the jackals and the ostriches;  
for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert,  
to give drink to my chosen people, the people whom I formed for myself  
so that they might declare my praise.**

**One: This is the Word of the Lord. All: Thanks be to God.**