

“Whenever the cloud lifted from over the sacred tent, the people of Israel would break camp and follow it. And wherever the cloud settled, the people of Israel would set up camp. In this way, they traveled and camped at the Lord’s command wherever he told them to go. Then they remained in their camp as long as the cloud stayed over the Tabernacle.” Numbers 9:17-18 NLT

## lectio // Numbers 9:15-23

Matt, our youth pastor, did a series called, “This is the Way,” taking off Star Wars hit show The Mandalorian. Mando lived by a strict code. He wasn’t born a Mandalorian, but was adopted into one of the families. Moses writing about Israel’s journeys through desert (it’s referred to as wilderness, but it was desolate), explains the movement of over a million people. MOVING a million people! Where, they did not know. They were told about a promised land. It would take them forty years. It was over 5,000 miles from Egypt and “estimated” to be a forty DAY trip, but I can’t see how a million folks could travel that distance in a little over a month. However, forty years is a LONGTIME to be wandering around a desert. A whole generation had to die before the “youth” would see the promise. Moses said, until then, it’s a very long game of follow the leader. The leader, God. The plan, when it’s foggy over the temporary chapel, stay put. When it’s clear over the tent, pack up and leave. Moses said, sometimes it’s only a day or two, sometimes it’s a month, months or years! Point, move when and where God says. Learn to live in flexible faith. Don’t put any familiar roots down (nothing would grow anyways). How will you know, check the weather everyday - if it’s clear, you’ll be moving on. This whole scenario is clearly pointing to a future when God will lead his people, now the Church, by the Holy Spirit. And the presence of that Holy Spirit isn’t hanging over a temporary tent or a permanent building. The Holy Spirit is leading people individually and cooperatively as one. Do I, do we wake up every single day and check the weather over the body of Christ, the church. Do we check in to see what or where the Holy Spirit is moving or what God is up to? We should. We should individually and we should corporately.

## oratio

Dad,

You are clearly moving, working in our world today. And we, the church, have a role to play in that movement every day.

What are you doing? What are you up to? How can I, can we join with you and not struggle against you. How can I check in everyday and see the hovering cloud of your Holy Spirit and know that it’s time to move. Not move houses, but move in faith and flexibility to what you’ve got going. I have a sense of what you are doing, but I want to know if others see it as well.

## contemplatio

rest in the presence of God, allowing the words revealed to take root