

P. &amp; C. Green-Turner (Novels)

Kyrle (Frank  
New Lines)

## LENT PREPARE

MP 486 ppt. 2 → MUSIC: PRAYERS

these recent years that <sup>There have been</sup> ~~has been~~ <sup>are signs</sup> that (elsewhere in the world at least) a renewed interest in lent <sup>has been</sup> developing. It's ritual symbolism → a direct experience of prayer, self-denial, self-examination and preparation for the future → <sup>these find</sup> finds echoes in the themes of contemporary religious revival movements. Lent visibly observed by the Christian community could serve also as a witness against the materialistic, consumerism that's growing and is so encouraged in the kind of society we live in. A witness too against a lot of the propaganda we're increasingly exposed to, that encourages self-gratification, disregard for life, superficial understanding of other people, greed. Lent calls for us to step out of the ordinary precisely so that we can step back into it with eyes opened and hearts renewed. The tradition has always emphasized the practical aim of Lenten self-denial → a greater openness and sensitivity to the needs of others. Lent treats the frailty of human nature seriously. We are wounded and in need of healing, but we can be restored to wholeness. There's a rich stream of religious wisdom in this tradition which continues to offer fresh alternatives to current fixations and social pressures = propaganda. Though the image of Lent may have some cheerless connotations, its reality is refreshing, for it's a season of spring, new life. If Christians would give it its value, perhaps the society we live in might begin to take notice too.