

COF Worship, Sunday March 29, 10:30 am

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Opening Music

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Call to Worship and Opening Prayer

L: Lent is a time to take the time to let the power of our faith story take hold of us

P: A time to let the events get up and walk around us

L: A time to intensify our living into Christ

P: A time to hover over the thoughts of our hearts

L: A time to place our feet in the streets of Jerusalem or to walk along the sea and listen to his word

P: A time to touch his robe and feel the healing surge through us,

L: a time to ponder and a time to wonder

P: Lent is a time to allow a fresh new taste of God!

-Ann Weems, *Lent from Kneeling in Jerusalem*, Westminster John Knox Press, 1992

Let us pray: God of life and love, we come together today in this new way, glad to know that we're all still here but sad that we can't actually be together. Guide our worship today that we might feel your presence and also the presence of our worshipping community. Give us the strength through this worship to make it through another week of isolation, of bored kids and empty grocery store shelves and fears for ourselves and our families and friends. Hear us as we pray this O Lord, in the name of Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray: *Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.*

Song: Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty

Praise ye the Lord, the almighty, the king of creation

O my soul praise him, for he is thy health and salvation

All ye who hear, now to his temple draw near; join me in glad adoration!

Praise ye the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,

Shelters thee under his wings, yea, so gently sustaineth!

Hast thou not seen how thy desires e're have been granted in what he ordaineth?

Praise ye the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!

All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before him!

Let the amen sound from his people again; gladly for aye we adore him.

Prayer of Confession

L: Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD.

P:² Lord, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

L:³ If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand?

P:⁴ But there is forgiveness with you, so that you may be revered.

L:⁵ I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in his word I hope;

P:⁶ my soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning, more than those who watch for the morning. (moment of silence.)

The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting.

I declare that, in the name of Jesus Christ,

we are forgiven! Thanks be to God! Amen!

Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow

Praise God all creatures here below

Praise God above, you heavenly host

Praise Father Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Passing of the peace: the peace of Christ be with you all!

Please share the peace by texting someone, or by typing into the comment box, or both!

Special Music

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture

Ezekiel 37:1-14 The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord God, you know." Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the Lord." So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude. Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act," says the Lord.

Song Dem Dry Bones

Ezekiel connected dem dry bones,

Ezekiel connected dem dry bones,

Ezekiel in the Valley of Dry Bones,

Now hear the word of the Lord.

Verse 1

Toe bone connected to the foot bone

Foot bone connected to the heel bone

Heel bone connected to the ankle bone

Ankle bone connected to the shin bone

Shin bone connected to the knee bone

Knee bone connected to the thigh bone

Thigh bone connected to the hip bone

Hip bone connected to the back bone

Back bone connected to the shoulder bone

Shoulder bone connected to the neck bone

Neck bone connected to the head bone

Now hear the word of the Lord.

Chorus

Dem bones, dem bones gonna walk around.

Dem bones, dem bones gonna walk around.

Dem bones, dem bones gonna walk around.

Now hear the word of the Lord.

Gospel John 11:33-45

³³When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. ³⁴He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." ³⁵Jesus began to weep. ³⁶So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" ³⁷But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

³⁸Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. ³⁹Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." ⁴⁰Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" ⁴¹So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. ⁴²I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me."

⁴³When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" ⁴⁴The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

Sermon

Affirmation of Faith—Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Joys and Concerns—*please type into the comments box on the lower right hand sign of the screen, or speak them out loud if you're on the conference call.*

Prayers of the People

Song: Live Into Hope

*Live into hope of captives freed, of sight regained the end of greed,
The oppressed shall be the first to see the year of God's own Jubilee!*

*Live into hope, the blind shall see with insight and with clarity
Removing shades of pride and fear—a vision of our God brought near*

*Live into hope of liberty, the right to speak the right to be,
The right to have one's daily bread, to hear God's word and thus be fed.*

*Live into hope of captives freed from chains of fear or want or greed
God now proclaims our full release to faith and hope and joy and peace.*

Charge and Benediction