

March 29, 2020
5th Sunday in Lent

10:00 am

GATHERING TOGETHER

Welcome and Life of the Community (Announcements)

Opening Song

Call to Worship¹

We have been in the wilderness—

Discerning and working, seeking and dreaming.

We have been in the wilderness—

Grieving and wondering, praying and hoping.

We have been in the wilderness—

Longing and running, creating and waiting.

We have been in the wilderness, but we have not been alone; for God walks with us, every step of the way.

So let us worship the God of our darkest nights and our brightest days.

Let us worship God.

Opening Prayer

Gracious God, you invite us to plant a garden of love and harmony. Too often we grow weeds of prejudice and hatred. You invite us to sow joy and gratitude, but then we scatter seeds of greed and envy. You call us to tend the soil, replacing fear with love, but instead we close our eyes and let the earth suffer. Remind us that you have invited us to plant a garden. Clear our hearts. Breathe life into these weary bones and grant us a fresh start. Gratefully we pray, amen.

Hymn #238

Now the Green Blade Rises

verses 1 & 4

**Now the green blade rises from the buried grain;
Wheat that in the dark earth for many days has lain;
Love lives again, that with the dead has been;
Love is come again, like wheat that rises green.**

**When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain.
Christ' warm touch can call us back to live again.
Fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been:
Love is come again like wheat that rises green.**

HEARING THE WORD

Scripture Reading

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 round 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,

¹ Adapted from sarah are, sanctifiedart.org

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, ‘Prophesy 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.’

Special Music

Scripture Reading

John 11:1-17; 33-45

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ²Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. ³So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, ‘Lord, he whom you love is ill.’ ⁴But when Jesus heard it, he said, ‘This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God’s glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.’ ⁵Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, ⁶after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

⁷ Then after this he said to the disciples, ‘Let us go to Judea again.’ ⁸The disciples said to him, ‘Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?’ ⁹Jesus answered, ‘Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. ¹⁰But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them.’ ¹¹After saying this, he told them, ‘Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him.’ ¹²The disciples said to him, ‘Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right.’ ¹³Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. ¹⁴Then Jesus told them plainly, ‘Lazarus is dead. ¹⁵For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.’ ¹⁶Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow-disciples, ‘Let us also go, that we may die with him...’

³²When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, ‘Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.’ 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?’

38 Then 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 for 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 upwards 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.’

45 Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

Time with Children

Rebecca Malke

Reflection

Wilderness: A place of new life

Pastor Kris

SHARING OUR LIVES

Call to Prayer

In Our Prayers²

*In our prayers, in our hearts, in our prayers, in our hearts,
God in your grace, hear our prayers; God in your grace, O God, hear our prayers*

Prayers of the People

During our online worship service, we invite you to type your prayers in the comments section on your screen. Pastor Kris will collect the petitions and read them during the service. Know that prayers shared this day are public. If you have prayer request you would like to remain private, you may email them to: pastorkris@memorialucc.org

Prayer of Jesus

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Offering

Offertory

Prayer of Dedication

In your hands, O God, we find new ways to be Church. Today Jesus calls us out—Out into a new world, a new life, a new way of being—And we catch glimpses of hope in our faith that love overcomes fear. Beyond the walls of the church, we give of ourselves in many different ways this morning responding to your presence, your love, and your glory. Amen.

GOING OUT TO THE WORLD

Song for Going Out

Lord of the Dance

² Words: Sidney Fowler. Samoan Translation & Music: Lauaki Agaiotupu Pouesi. Local Church Ministries, United Church of Christ. United Church of Christ.

http://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/unitedchurchofchrist/legacy_url/7887/song12.pdf?1418432647.

**I danced in the morning when the world was begun,
and I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun,
I came down from heaven and I danced on earth. At Bethlehem I had my birth.**

Chorus:

**Dance, dance, wherever you may be; I am the Lord of the Dance, said he.
And I'll lead you all wherever you me by, and I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.**

**I danced for the scribe and the Pharisee,
but they would not dance and they would not follow me;
I danced for the fishermen, for James and John; they came to me and the dance went on.**

Chorus

Benediction