



FIRST
Sunday
OF
LENT



West Richmond Church of the Brethren

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March 6, 2022

First Sunday in Lent

Welcome and Announcements

Organ Prelude

A Lenten Prelude

Wihla Hutson

GIVE PRAISE TO GOD

* Call to Worship

inspired by Ezekiel 37: 1-14, John 11: 1-45

One: The prophet asks: Can our soul-weary bones live again?

Many: **O God, you know!**

One: We ask: Can we dance again after mourning, loss and grief?

Many: **O God, you know!**

One: The gift is sure and unmistakable:

Many: **God's breath poured out as new life for weary souls!**

One: Let us celebrate the gift of God's new life,

Many: **And come to worship God in laughter and dancing!**

* Opening Prayer

Rev. Elizabeth Dilley

From *Come Out! On the Breath of God, Service Prayers for the fifth Sunday of Lent*. Posted on the United Church of Christ's Worship Ways website. <http://www.ucc.org/worship/worship-ways/>

Compassionate God, the wind of your Spirit is the very sign of life for all who long for you. One breath from you and we are rescued from the arid valley of dry bones, given muscles and sinews and joy with which to praise you, and filled with the holy hope you grant to all your faithful children. Let our whole lives be filled with the life-breath of the Spirit, that what has lain dormant may burst into bloom, and what looks to us to be death may be revealed as but sleep before the emergence of new life. Amen.

1. Brethren, we have met to worship
and adore the Lord our God.
Will you pray with all your power
while we try to preach the word?
All is vain unless the Spirit
of the holy One comes down.
Brethren, pray, and holy manna
will be showered all around.
2. Sisters, will you come and help us?
Moses' sisters aided him.
Will you help the trembling mourners
who are struggling hard with sin?
Tell them all about the Savior.
Tell them that he will be found.
Sisters, pray, and holy manna
will be showered all around.
3. Is there here a trembling jailer,
seeking grace and filled with tears?
Is there here a weeping Mary
pouring forth a flood of tears?
Brethren, join your cries to help them,
sisters, let your prayers abound!
Pray, oh pray, that holy manna
will be scattered all around.
4. Let us love our God supremely,
let us love each other, too.
Let us love and pray for sinners
till our God makes all things new.
Christ will call us home to heaven,
at His table we'll sit down;
Christ will gird himself, and serve us
with sweet manna all around.

CELEBRATE GOD'S FAMILY

Congregational Prayer

805

One: Eternal God, before you the generations pass. Your character is love, your way is compassion, your name is everlasting. Today we remember those who lived, labored, and loved among us. Because of their lives, we know better how to live. Because of their suffering, we find greater strength. Because of their death, we better understand what is important in life.

Many: **We sorrow, but not as those who have no hope. We grieve, but not as those who center the thoughts on death. We sense loneliness, but not as those who are left alone. We thank you, God, that even in separation, we experience love, peace, and hope.**

One: We praise you, God, for light which arises out of darkness, for comfort which is constant in the midst of confusion, for hope which springs out of sorrow.

Many: **We thank, God, for sending a Savior who says: "I am the resurrection and the life; those who believe in me... shall never die."**

All: *O God, grant us grace to affirm in life, as in death, that we are yours. Our help is in you. Our hope is in your promise, through Jesus Christ, our loving Lord. AMEN*

Song

In the bulb there is a flower

#614

Hymn Of Promise by Natalie Sleeth

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1. In the bulb there is a flower;
in the seed, an apple tree;
in cocoons, a hidden promise:
butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter
there's a spring that waits to be,
unrevealed until its season,

something God alone can see.

2. There's a song in every silence,
seeking word and melody.
There's a dawn in every darkness,
bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future;
what it holds, a mystery,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.
3. In our end is our beginning;
in our time, infinity;
in our doubt there is believing;
in our life, eternity.
In our death, a resurrection;
at the last, a victory,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.

Time with Our Children

WORSHIP IN GIVING

Thoughts on Giving

William Arthur Ward (1921-94) America educator

Giving is more than a responsibility—it is a privilege; more than an act of obedience—it is evidence of our faith.

LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD PROCLAIMED

Special Music

I Lay My Sins On Jesus

arr. Lani Smith

I Lay My Sins On Jesus arr. Lani Smith
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I lay my sins on Jesus. All fullness dwells in Him.

He heals all my diseases, He doth my soul redeem.
I lay my griefs on Jesus; My burdens and my cares.
He from them all releases; He all my sorrow shares.

I long to be like Jesus, meek, loving, lowly, mild.
I long to be like Jesus, the Father's holy child.
I long to be with Jesus amid the heavenly throng.
To sing with saints His praises, to learn the angels' songs.

Scripture Lesson

John 11:1-44 (NRSV)

The Death of Lazarus

11 Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ² Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. ³ So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." ⁴ But 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." ⁵ Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, ⁶ after 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." ⁸ The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" ⁹ Jesus 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. ¹⁰ But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them." ¹¹ After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." ¹² The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." ¹³ Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. ¹⁴ Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. ¹⁵ For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." ¹⁶ Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

Jesus the Resurrection and the Life

¹⁷ When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. ¹⁸ Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, ¹⁹ and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. ²⁰ When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. ²¹ Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²² But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." ²³ Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." ²⁴ Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." ²⁵ Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, ²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" ²⁷ She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

Jesus Weeps

²⁸ When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." ²⁹ And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. ³⁰ Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. ³¹ The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. ³² When 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." ³³ When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. ³⁴ He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." ³⁵ Jesus began to weep. ³⁶ So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" ³⁷ But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

Jesus Raises Lazarus to Life

³⁸ Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. ³⁹ Jesus 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." ⁴⁰ Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" ⁴¹ So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. ⁴² I 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." ⁴³ When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" ⁴⁴ The 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."

Song

Blessed Assurance

332

1. Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.

*Refrain: This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long.
This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long.*

2. Perfect submission, perfect delight,
visions of rapture now burst on my sight.
Angels descending bring from above
echoes of mercy, whispers of love. *[Refrain]*
3. Perfect submission, all is at rest.
I in my Savior am happy and bless'd,
watching and waiting, looking above,
filled with his goodness, lost in his love. *[Refrain]*

Sermon

"Do You Believe This?"

GO IN GOD'S NAME

* **Closing Hymn** *Jesus, keep me near the cross* (vv. 1-2, 4) # 6 1 7

1. Jesus, keep me near the cross, there a precious fountain,
free to all, a healing stream, flows from Calv'ry's mountain.

Refrain:

*In the cross, in the cross be my glory ever,
till my ransomed soul shall find rest beyond the river.*

2. Near the cross, a trembling soul, love and mercy found me.
There the bright and morning star shed its beams around me.

[Refrain]

4. Near the cross! I'll watch and wait, hoping, trusting ever,
till I reach the golden strand, just beyond the river.

[Refrain]

* **Benediction**

Postlude

He Lifted Me/Marvelous Grace

Gabriel/Kirkpatrick

* Please stand as able and led



Ministers	All Members
Pastor.....	David Whitten
Worship Leader	Susan Robertson
Special Music	Bob Phillips
Flautist	Sarah Hartman
Guitarist.....	David Whitten
Organist/Pianist.....	Bob Phillips
Media & Technology Dir.	Kevin Beers

