



# *Fifth Sunday in Lent: Confession*



**Open Our Eyes, Lord**  
John 9:40



# West Richmond Church of the Brethren

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March 25, 2023

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent

Welcome

Prelude

*Were You There?*

arr. Dale Wood

## GIVE PRAISE TO GOD

### \* Call to Worship

One: Breathe through us, breath of God!

Many: Give us sinew and muscle and skin.

One: Breathe through us, breath of God!

Many: Fill us with life and hope and purpose.

One: Breathe through us, breath of God!

Many: That we may love what you love and do what you would do.

ALL: THROUGH THE BREATH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, GIVE US NEW LIFE.

### \* Opening Prayer

God of Promise: When we have been dried up and lifeless, open our graves and give us new life. Re-member the body of Christ through confession and repentance. Free us from the walls of fear and apathy and defensiveness which have confined us in places of death. Call us forth, unbind the constraints which hold us. Open our graves and give us new life in Jesus. Amen

### \* Opening Song

*Breathe on Me, Breath of God*

#737

Verse 1:

Breathe on me, breath of God. Fill me with life anew,  
that I may love what you so love, and do what you would do.

Verse 2:

Breathe on me, breath of God, until my heart is pure,  
until with you, I will one will: to do and to endure.

Verse 3:

Breathe on me, breath of God, my will to yours incline,  
till all this selfish part of me glows with your fire divine.

Verse 4:

Breathe on me, breath of God, so shall I never die,  
but live with you the perfect life of your eternity.

## CELEBRATE GOD'S FAMILY

**Time with our Children** (after, children over 5 go to Children's Church)

**Song**

*Lord, I Need You*

# 155

*Lord, I Need You* by Christy Nockels, Daniel Carson, Jesse Reeves, Kristian Stanfill, Matt Maher  
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Verse 1:

Lord, I come, I confess.  
Bowing here, I find my rest.  
And without you, I fall apart.  
You're the one that guides my heart.

*Refrain: Lord, I need you, oh, I need you.  
Ev'ry hour I need you.  
My one defense, my righteousness;  
O God, how I need you.*

Verse 2:

Where sin runs deep, your grace is more.  
Where grace is found is where you are.  
And where you are, Lord, I am free.  
Holiness is Christ in me.

*Refrain*

BRIDGE:

So, teach my song to rise to you  
when temptation comes my way.  
And when I cannot stand, I'll fall on you.  
Jesus, you're my hope and stay.

*Refrain: Lord, I need you, oh, I need you.  
Ev'ry hour I need you.  
My one defense, my righteousness;  
O God, how I need you.*

## Prayer of Confession

*from Psalm 130 Nan C. Merrill 2007*

Out of the depths we cry to You, O Lord. We are lost without your salvation. God, in your mercy, hear our prayers. If we counted the times we have strayed from you, How could we stand your judgment? God, in your mercy, hear our prayers. We have put ourselves in prisons of our own making: Lifeless spaces of ignorance and intolerance and indifference. God, in your mercy, hear our prayers. Yet if we confess how we have sinned against others and against You, You are ready to forgive so that we may be healed. We wait for You, our souls wait. Open the locked doors and free us from our imprisonment So that we may live in your love and in the promise of new life. Amen.

## WORSHIP IN GIVING

**Special Music** *You've Got to Be Carefully Taught*

Rodgers/Hammerstein II

## Thoughts on Giving

# 1015

Generous God, you gave us life; now we give our lives back to you. We present ourselves: our work and play, our joys and sorrows, our thoughts and deeds, our gifts and resources, to be used by you for the sake of all people everywhere, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Verse 1:

Holy Spirit, come with power,  
breathe into our aching night.  
We expect you this glad hour,  
waiting for your strength and light.  
We are fearful, we are ailing,  
we are weak and selfish too.  
Break upon your congregation,  
give us vigor, life anew.

Verse 2:

Holy Spirit, come with fire,  
burn us with your presence new.  
Let us as one mighty choir  
sing our hymn of praise to you.  
Burn away our wasted sadness  
and enflame us with your love.  
Burst upon your congregation,  
give us gladness from above.

Verse 3:

Holy Spirit, bring your message,  
burn and breathe each word anew  
deep into our tired living  
till we strive your work to do.  
Teach us love and trusting kindness,  
lend our hands to those who hurt.  
Breathe upon your congregation  
and inspire us with your Word.

## LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD PROCLAIMED

### Scripture Lesson

Ezekiel 37:1-14 (*NRSVUE*)

37 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. <sup>2</sup> He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. <sup>3</sup> He said to me, “Mortal, can these bones live?” I answered, “O Lord God, you know.” <sup>4</sup> Then he said to me, “Prophesy to these bones and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. <sup>5</sup> Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. <sup>6</sup> 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.”

<sup>7</sup> 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. <sup>8</sup> 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. <sup>9</sup> 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.” <sup>10</sup> I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

<sup>11</sup> 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.’ <sup>12</sup> 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. <sup>13</sup> And you shall know that I am the Lord when I open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people. <sup>14</sup> 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.”

**Sermon**

“Breathing in New Life”

**Testimonies**

## Call to Discipleship

One: I don't see color!

Many: That is not the goal. we see color and we honor you.

One: I will be educated about your unique lived experiences.

Many: We will work against the racism that harms you.

One: I will do better.

Many: We will do better.

ALL: THAT'S THE GOAL!

## GO IN GOD'S NAME

\* **Closing Song**      *For We Are Strangers No More*      # 409

*Refrain:*

*For we are strangers no more, but members of one family;  
strangers no more, but part of one humanity;  
strangers no more, we're neighbors to each other now;  
strangers no more, we're bound to one another now.*

Verse 1:

Come, walk with me, we'll worship God together,  
as we join song to song, and prayer to prayer.  
Come, take my hand, and we will work together  
by lifting all the burdens we can share.

*Refrain*

Verse 2:

Where diff'ring cultures meet, we'll serve together.  
Where hatred rages, we will strive for peace.  
Come, take my hand, and we will pray together  
that justice come, and strife and warfare cease.

*Refrain*

Verse 3:

There is a love that binds the world together,  
a love that seeks the last, the lost, the least.

One day that love will bring us all together  
in Christ, from South and North, from West and East.

*Refrain*

\* **Benediction**

**Postlude**

*Wonderful, Wonderful Jesus*

Ernest O. Sellers

There is never a day so dreary, There is never a night so long,  
But the soul that is trusting Jesus Will somewhere find a song.

*Wonderful, wonderful Jesus.  
In the heart he implanteth a song;  
A song of deliverance, of courage, of strength;  
In the heart he implanteth a song.*

There is never a care or burden, There is never a grief or loss,  
But that Jesus in love will lighten When carried to the cross.

\* Please stand as able and led



<b>Ministers</b> .....	<b>All Members</b>
Pastor .....	David Whitten
Worship Leader .....	Alyce Newman
Children's Time .....	Sarah Hartman
Special Music .....	David Whitten
Flautist .....	Sarah Hartman
Guitarist .....	David Whitten
Pianist/Organist .....	Bob Phillips
Dir. of Tech & Media .....	Kevin Beers