

Sixth Sunday in Lent April 5, 2020

INVITATION AND GATHERING

WELCOME

CENTERING WORDS

In the midst of life, we are in death. But in the face of death, God's Spirit comes to bring us life. Can dry bones live? Can life emerge from death? Only God knows. And yet, Christ promises just such a miracle through the power of God's Holy Spirit. Come, Holy Spirit, come.

INTRODUCTION TO THE WORD

Listen to the word of God, for God's word is life.

But death runs swift.

Believe in the promise of the resurrection.

We want to believe, help our unbelief.

Those who live and believe in Christ will never die.

We will find faith in the Lord of life.

***SCRIPTURE READING John 11:1-15**

*** OPENING HYMN: # Lord, I Lift your Name on High**

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

All who are dwindling and dying...
come forth to new life.

All who are lying in darkness and despair...
come out into the light.

All who feel separated and alone ...
come to the presence of God,
whose Spirit finds us here.

*** Let us pray:**

Come, Holy Spirit.

Breathe new life into our lives
and our worship.

Create new possibilities,
in our imaginations and in our dreams.

Send the promise of your hope
into our depression and our despair.
Expand our hearts and our minds,
as we enter your presence this day.

*** LET'S WORSHIP THE LORD WITH HYMNS: Come Alive (Dry Bones)**

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)**

God of new life and emerging possibilities,
forgive us when death and despair occupy our focus.
Embolden our faith
when your future feels out of reach.
Strengthen our courage,
that we might come forth into the light and life of your promises.
In hope and trust, we pray. Amen.

*** LET'S WORSHIP THE LORD WITH HYMNS: Breath on Me, Breath of God**

INTRODUCTION TO THE WORD

Let your ears be attentive.
Let your minds be focused upon the Spirit.
Listen for the word of God.

***SCRIPTURE READING Ezekiel 37:1-14**

Leader: This is the word of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

THE WORD MADE FLESH: "Only the Spirit of God gives us life"

*** RESPONSE TO THE WORD: Awesome God**

CONGREGATION IN PRAYER

Joys and Concerns

Prayer / Disciple's Prayer

*** CLOSING HYMN: Trust and Obey**

***DISMISSAL BLESSING**

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS:

John 11:1-15 *New King James Version (NKJV)*

The Death of Lazarus

11 Now a certain *man* was sick, Lazarus of Bethany, the town of Mary and her sister Martha. ²It was *that* Mary who anointed the Lord with fragrant oil and wiped His feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was sick. ³Therefore the sisters sent to Him, saying, "Lord, behold, he whom You love is sick."

⁴When Jesus heard *that*, He said, "This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified through it."

⁵Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. ⁶So, when He heard that he was sick, He stayed two more days in the place where He was. ⁷Then after this He said to *the* disciples, "Let us go to Judea again."

⁸*The* disciples said to Him, "Rabbi, lately the Jews sought to stone You, and are You going there again?"

⁹Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours in the day? If anyone walks in the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world. ¹⁰But if one walks in the night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him." ¹¹These things He said, and after that He said to them, "Our friend Lazarus sleeps, but I go that I may wake him up."

¹²Then His disciples said, "Lord, if he sleeps he will get well." ¹³However, Jesus spoke of his death, but they thought that He was speaking about taking rest in sleep.

¹⁴Then Jesus said to them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. ¹⁵And I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, that you may believe. Nevertheless let us go to him."

Check us out on Facebook, LeRoy United Methodist Church, for a recorded service this Sunday at 10:30 am or after

Ezekiel 37:1-14 *New King James Version (NKJV)*

The Dry Bones Live

37 The hand of the LORD came upon me and brought me out in the Spirit of the LORD, and set me down in the midst of the valley; and it *was* full of bones. ²Then He caused me to pass by them all around, and behold, *there were* very many in the open valley; and indeed *they were* very dry. ³And He said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" So I answered, "O Lord GOD, You know."

⁴Again He said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them, 'O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD!' ⁵Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: "Surely I will cause breath to enter into you, and you shall live. ⁶I will put sinews on you and bring flesh upon you, cover you with skin and put breath in you; and you shall live. Then you shall know that I *am* the LORD." ' ' "

⁷So I prophesied as I was commanded; and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and suddenly a rattling; and the bones came together, bone to bone. ⁸Indeed, as I looked, the sinews and the flesh came upon them, and the skin covered them over; but *there was* no breath in them.

⁹Also He said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, son of man, and say to the ^[a]breath, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live." ' ' "

¹⁰So I prophesied as He commanded me, and ^[b]breath came into them, and they lived, and stood upon their feet, an exceedingly great army.

¹¹Then He said to me, "Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They indeed say, 'Our bones are dry, our hope is lost, and we ourselves are cut off!' ¹²Therefore prophecy and say to them, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "Behold, O My people, I will open your graves and cause you to come up from your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel. ¹³Then you shall know that I *am* the LORD, when I have opened your graves, O My people, and brought you up from your graves. ¹⁴I will put My Spirit in you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken *it* and performed *it*," says the LORD.' ' "