



First Presbyterian Church

Sunday Worship

Fifth Sunday in Lent 29 March 2020 9:30 a.m

(Live streaming or a recording of the service is available by clicking the appropriate link on the church web page www.firstprescdale.org)

PREPARATION FOR THE WORD

PRAYER IN PREPARATION

Lord God, Great I AM, you are resurrection and life.
As we worship you this day show us who we are:
bearers of good news, messengers of resurrection;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRELUDE

MINISTRY OF THE CHURCH

One: We thank God for these opportunities for fellowship and service.
All: Thanks be to God!

JOYS AND CONCERNS

One: We give thanks to God for these blessings.
All: Thanks be to God!
One: For all these people and all who are in need
All: Please hold your people near, O God!

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

One: O mortal, can these bones live?
All: Only the Lord God knows.
One: O people, hope in the Lord.
All: With the Lord there is steadfast love and great power to redeem.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

One: Out of the depths we cry to you, O Lord.
All: Lord, hear our voices and be attentive to our prayers.
One: We pray for those whose hope is lost, who feel dried up and cut off from you.
All: By your grace, open their graves; bring them back to the land of the living.
One: We pray for those who are oppressed, held captive by the power of death.
All: Release them from their chains; unbind them and let them go!
One: We pray for those who weep, lost and lifeless in fear and regret.
All: Grant them the peace of your presence; show them what your love can do.
One: We pray for those who are dying, the light of life fading in their eyes.
All: Help them to believe in you so that they may live and never die.
One: We thank you, O Lord, for having heard our prayers.
**All: Enable us to trust in you, and thus to see your glory;
through Jesus Christ, the resurrection and the life. Amen.**

*CONFESSION & ASSURANCE

Call to Confession

One: To set the mind on the flesh is death,
but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.
Trusting in the Spirit of God, let us confess our sin.

Prayer of Confession

One: Let us pray

All: O Lord, if you held our sin against us, who could live, who could stand? We seem to have more faith in death than hope in your promise of life. And even so, you love us; still there is forgiveness with you! Therefore we worship you; for you alone, O Lord, can save us from death and redeem us from our sin. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

One: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord!

If Jesus Christ dwells in you, the Spirit of God will be your life and the grace of God will be your righteousness.

And if the Holy Spirit dwells in you, then God, who raised Jesus from the dead, will also give life to your mortal bodies.

Friends, this is the good news of the gospel: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

All: Thanks be to God!

Giving of the Peace

One: The peace of Christ be with you all!

All: And also with you!

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

CHILDREN'S SERMON

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

One: Without the breath of God, we are dry bones, and without the Word of God, we are dust. With gratitude, let us offer our lives to the Lord of all life.

All: Amen.

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing
Carlyn Zimmermann, soloist

Mark Hayes

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Ezekiel 37:1-14

¹The 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. ²He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. ³He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." ⁴Then 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: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. ⁶I 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." ⁷So 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. ⁸I 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. ⁹Then 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." ¹⁰I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude. ¹¹Then 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.'" ¹²Therefore 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. ¹³And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. ¹⁴I 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.

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Dem Dry Bones

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:

The Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

OFFERING

Minute for Mission—Justice Advocacy Center

Cindy Buys

Sentences

One: Our lives overflow with the goodness of God.
Sharing what we have so abundantly received,
we bring now our tithes and offerings to God, with gladness and gratitude.

Please, as you are financially able, continue to contribute to the life and ministry of the church through your gifts. Give through direct deposit or by sending checks in the mail.

***Doxology 606**

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise God all creatures here below
Praise God above ye heavenly host
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

***Prayer of Dedication**

One: Holy God, giver of life, we thank you for raising us up and joining us together as one people, your people, flesh and bone in the body of Christ.
As you have delivered us from death,
use our lives to proclaim the good news of new life in Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

One: God inspires us to pray, hears our prayers, and answers our prayers.

All: Alleluia! Amen!

One: Let us pray....

Silent Prayer

One: Let us pray together the Lord's Prayer...

**All: 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.**

***CHARGE AND BLESSING**

POSTLUDE