



# First Presbyterian

## CHURCH OF EASTON



A Service for the Worship of God  
March 26, 2023

### The Fifth Sunday in Lent

*\*Indicates an invitation to rise in body and/or spirit as you are able.*

#### WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

GATHERING MUSIC

TOWER BELLS

PRELUDE

I Cry to Thee, Lord Jesus Christ

J. S. Bach

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME

#### WE GIVE THANKS TO GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP

Jesus came to show us that our dreaded enemy – death – can be overcome by faith.  
**Heal our doubts and our longings for assurance and give us spirits of trust and hope.**  
Praise be to God who has given us Jesus.  
**Praise be to Jesus who has given us life. Amen.**

\*HYMN 80 (V. 1-3)

Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley

Jesus walked this lonesome valley,  
He had to walk it by Himself;  
O, nobody else could walk it for Him,  
He had to walk it by Himself.

We must walk this lonesome valley,  
We have to walk it by ourselves;  
O, nobody else can walk it for us,  
We have to walk it by ourselves.

You must go and stand your trial,  
You have to stand it by yourself,  
O, nobody else can stand it for you,  
You have to stand it by yourself.

## WE PREPARE TO HEAR GOD'S WORD

RESPONSIVE READING

Ezekiel 37

The prophet Ezekiel said: The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out of the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley:

**The valley was full of bones. There were many bones lying in the valley, and they were so very dry.**

God said, "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, and you shall live.**

God will cause flesh to come upon you, dry bones, and cover you with skin and put breath in you.

**O bones, you shall live, and you shall know that I am the Lord."**

God spoke: "O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you too shall live."

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God, we confess that we are frightened by death. We have experienced loss of loved ones. In a world where so much is uncertain, the inevitability of death is overwhelming. In scripture today, we encounter Lazarus and his family. They long for Lazarus to be alive again. Jesus' power to resurrect Lazarus confuses us. We long for that type of healing for our loved ones and ourselves. We long to dismiss our doubts that your power is greater than even death. Give us courage to face our fears around death. Let us embrace the life and resurrection you offer us here and now. Let us work that this world may be a place of abundant life for all. Help us move away from the prison of death to the light of eternal life and hope. In Jesus' name, we pray.**

*Silent Prayer*

**Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The Apostle Paul declared our hope, asking the question: "Who is in a position to condemn?" The answer? "Only Christ – and Christ died for us; Christ rose for us; Christ reigns in power for us; Christ prays for us." Trust this Good News. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and set free by God's generous grace.

\*RESPONSE OF PRAISE

Gloria Patri

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. Amen. Amen.**

## WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE READING

John 11:1-17, 38-45

SERMON

Rev. Stefanie Muntzel

My Master in a garden lay, perfumed with spices rare,  
 for tender hands had laid Him there to rest amid the roses.  
 'Twas on a cross they laid Him bare  
 and pierced His hands with nails  
 that we poor men might live again and be with Him in glory. Alleluia.  
 My Master from a garden rose to go for us to heaven,  
 and He will come and take us there to be with Him forever.

### WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

#### INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

God has given us so many gifts in Christ and in creation. We offer our gifts in gratitude for the possibilities we enjoy, trusting God to multiply what we bring for goodness' sake.

*Please leave your offering in the box at the front of the sanctuary or make your gifts online or via mail.*

#### PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**Lord God, we offer our gifts in thanksgiving for all the goodness you provide. Bless our gifts and our lives so that we become a source of goodness for others, in the name of Christ, our strength and our hope. Amen.**

#### \*RESPONSE

Doxology

**Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;  
 Praise God, all creatures here below;  
 Praise God above, ye heav'nly host;  
 Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

#### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

##### THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

## WE GO IN GOD'S NAME

\*HYMN 85 (V. 1-3)

What Wondrous Love Is This

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul,  
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!  
What wondrous love is this  
That caused the Lord of bliss  
To bear the heavy cross for my soul, for my soul,  
To bear the heavy cross for my soul!

To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing,  
To God and to the Lamb, I will sing;  
To God and to the Lamb  
Who is the great I Am,  
While millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing;  
While millions join the theme, I will sing!

And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on,  
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on;  
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joyful be,  
And through eternity I'll sing on, I'll sing on,  
And through eternity I'll sing on!

\*BENEDICTION

As we journey through the season of Lent, remember the words of the prophet Micah:  
What does the Lord require of us? To do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with our God.

May God's loving kindness comfort you, God's justice inspire you, and Jesus walk beside you in humility and hope.

POSTLUDE

I Cry to Thee, Lord Jesus Christ

Dupré

### Worship Leaders

Rev. Stefanie Muntzel

Gloria Snyder, Organist

Elizabeth Campbell, Chancel Choir Director

The Chancel Choir

Pat Koefoed, Liturgist

Tech Support: Jacob Van Norman, Bill Bartlett, Rich Linnell, Pat Koefoed, Luke McGloughlin

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*Each Sunday we sing hymns taken from the blue hymnal provided for you in the pew where you are seated. Though we print the lyrics to the hymns in the bulletin, we encourage you to turn to the hymnal so you can also read the accompanying music.*

## **John 11:1-17, 38-45**

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, 'Lord, he whom you love is ill.' 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.' Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

Then after this he said to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judea again.' The disciples said to him, 'Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?' 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. But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them.' After saying this, he told them, 'Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him.' The disciples said to him, 'Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right.' Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. Then Jesus told them plainly, 'Lazarus is dead. For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.' Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow-disciples, 'Let us also go, that we may die with him.' When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days.

Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. 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 for four days.' Jesus said to her, 'Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upwards and said, 'Father, I thank you for having heard me. 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.' When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come out!' 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.' Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.