

Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ
Services Canceled
Online Only
5th Sunday of Lent

Mar 29, 2020

Sunday Morning Prayer

For all who have contracted coronavirus,
 We pray for care and healing.

For those who are particularly vulnerable,
 We pray for safety and protection.

For all who experience fear or anxiety,
 We pray for peace of mind and spirit.

For affected families who are facing difficult decisions between food on the table or public safety,

We pray for policies that recognize their plight.

For those who do not have adequate health insurance,
 We pray that no family will face financial burdens alone.

For those who are afraid to access care due to immigration status,
 We pray for recognition of the God-given dignity of all.

For our brothers and sisters around the world,
 We pray for shared solidarity.

For public officials and decisionmakers,
 We pray for wisdom and guidance.

Father, during this time may your Church be a sign of hope, comfort and love to all.

Grant peace.

Grant comfort.

Grant healing.

Be with us, Lord.

Amen.¹

Prayer List

Linda A	Mel C	Mike L
Lou A	Donna F	Peggy P
Cathy B	Bob G	Unspoken Request
Tubby B	Jean G	
<i>HealthCare Professionals</i>		
Kera F	Nancy P	Many others...
Elizabeth Y	Tyler P	

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Call to Worship

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

O God, you know!

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

O God, you know!

The gift is sure and unmistakable:

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

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

And come to worship God in laughter and dancing!

Opening Hymn *"Precious Lord, Take My Hand"*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qyykODLTZ8o>

Gathering Prayer

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.**

Prayer of Confession

**Revitalizing God,
your power goes far beyond our own,
and yet still we act as though the pains of this world
have final claim upon us.
We give in to the despair and hopelessness of death,
not trusting in your ability
to call forth new life from the tombs of our lives.
Forgive us for doubting your power
to raise up new life in the midst of all the deaths we experience.
Forgive us for wanting to limit you
to "the last day" or "the world beyond this one",
not trusting you to move and act
among us, within us, through us.
Forgive us, and open our eyes
to the wonder of new life sprouting into being in our very midst. **Amen.****

Words of Assurance

“Come out,” Jesus calls,
and his word unbinds us from the oppressive weight of our past
and pushes away the rocks that close us off from love.
We are made free in the spirit of God, and forgiven all our sins.

May God’s name always be praised from our lips!

Psalm Reading

Psalm 130

A song of ascents.

¹ Out of the depths I cry to you, LORD;
² Lord, hear my voice.
Let your ears be attentive
to my cry for mercy.
³ If you, LORD, kept a record of sins,
Lord, who could stand?
⁴ But with you there is forgiveness,
so that we can, with reverence, serve you.
⁵ I wait for the LORD, my whole being waits,
and in his word I put my hope.
⁶ I wait for the Lord
more than watchmen wait for the morning,
more than watchmen wait for the morning.
⁷ Israel, put your hope in the LORD,
for with the LORD is unfailing love
and with him is full redemption.
⁸ He himself will redeem Israel
from all their sins.

Epistle Reading

Romans 8:6-11

⁶ The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷ The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God’s law, nor can it do so. ⁸ Those who are in the realm of the flesh cannot please God.

⁹ You, however, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ. ¹⁰ But if Christ is in you, then even though your body is subject to death because of sin, the Spirit gives life ^[a] because of righteousness. ¹¹ And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of ^[b] his Spirit who lives in you.

Meditation Hymn

“Softly and Tenderly”

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OtC_3XFc8K0

The Death of Lazarus

Now a man named Lazarus was sick. He was from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ²(This Mary, whose brother Lazarus now lay sick, was the same one who poured perfume on the Lord and wiped his feet with her hair.) ³So the sisters sent word to Jesus, "Lord, the one you love is sick."

⁴When he heard this, Jesus said, "This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God's glory so that God's Son may be glorified through it." ⁵Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. ⁶So when he heard that Lazarus was sick, he stayed where he was two more days, ⁷and then he said to his disciples, "Let us go back to Judea."

⁸"But Rabbi," they said, "a short while ago the Jews there tried to stone you, and yet you are going back?"

⁹Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Anyone who walks in the daytime will not stumble, for they see by this world's light. ¹⁰It is when a person walks at night that they stumble, for they have no light."

¹¹After he had said this, he went on to tell them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I am going there to wake him up."

¹²His disciples replied, "Lord, if he sleeps, he will get better." ¹³Jesus had been speaking of his death, but his disciples thought he meant natural sleep.

¹⁴So then he told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead, ¹⁵and for your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him."

¹⁶Then Thomas (also known as Didymus^[a]) said to the rest of the disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

Jesus Comforts the Sisters of Lazarus

¹⁷On his arrival, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. ¹⁸Now Bethany was less than two miles^[b] from Jerusalem, ¹⁹and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them in the loss of their brother. ²⁰When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him, but Mary stayed at home.

²¹"Lord," Martha said to Jesus, "if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²²But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask."

²³Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again."

²⁴Martha answered, "I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day."

²⁵Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; ²⁶and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

²⁷ “Yes, Lord,” she replied, “I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who is to come into the world.”

²⁸ After she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary aside. “The Teacher is here,” she said, “and is asking for you.” ²⁹ When Mary heard this, she got up quickly and went to him. ³⁰ Now Jesus had not yet entered the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. ³¹ When the Jews who had been with Mary in the house, comforting her, noticed how quickly she got up and went out, they followed her, supposing she was going to the tomb to mourn there.

³² When Mary reached the place where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.”

³³ When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled. ³⁴ “Where have you laid him?” he asked.

“Come and see, Lord,” they replied.

³⁵ Jesus wept.

³⁶ Then 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 From the Dead

³⁸ Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance. ³⁹ “Take away the stone,” he said.

“But, Lord,” said Martha, the sister of the dead man, “by this time there is a bad odor, for he has been there four days.”

⁴⁰ Then Jesus said, “Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?”

⁴¹ So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, “Father, I thank you that you have heard me. ⁴² I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me.”

⁴³ When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” ⁴⁴ The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face.

Jesus said to them, “Take off the grave clothes and let him go.”

The Plot to Kill Jesus

⁴⁵ Therefore many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary, and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

This is the Gospel of our Risen Lord, Jesus Christ.
Praise be to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Gloria Patri

TH # 493

Children's Message

See the Children's Bulletin titled 'Jesus Raises Lazarus'

Today's Message

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MLKfWLbX29A&t=19s>

The Apostle's Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth: And in Jesus Christ his only begotten Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hades; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic/christian church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

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.

Sung Response

"Hear Our Prayer, O Lord"

TH # 501

Closing Hymn

"His Eye Is On the Sparrow"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=95X3rzRJ1w>

Benediction

Come out! Jesus commands,

**And calls us from the tombs of our existence
into the brightness of a new day.**

Come out! Jesus cries,

And unbinds us from the chains of our past.

Come out! Jesus calls,

And entices us into a world filled with grace and possibility.

So:

Go out!

Into a world that needs our life, our breath, our spirit!

Go out!

**Into a world that needs the Spirit of God,
carried on our lips and in our loving arms.**

Go out!

Into the world to live as God's resurrected people!

Go out: and go on the breath of God's holy wind!

In the name of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, one God, now and until the end of eternity. **Amen.**

Three-Fold Amen

TH # 558



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Come Out! On the Breath of God, Service Prayers for the fifth Sunday of Lent was written by the Rev. Elizabeth Dilley, Minister and Team Leader for MESA, Ministerial Excellence, Support and Authorization Team.



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