



5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent  
March 29, 2020

PRELUDE

*Song of Hope*

P. Meechan  
David Wolfe, trumpet

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Darren Cushman Wood

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Leave behind your faults and failures.

**People: Christ calls us to live again.**

Leader: Leave behind your isolation and indifference.

**People: Christ calls us to love again.**

Leader: Leave behind your discouragement and despair.

**People: Christ calls us to hope again.**

OPENING HYMN

*Blessed Assurance*

***Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!  
O what a foretaste of glory divine!  
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,  
born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.***

**Refrain:**

***This is my story, this is my song,  
praising my Savior all the day long;  
this is my story, this is my song,  
praising my Savior all the day long.***

***Perfect submission, all is at rest;  
I in my Savior am happy and blest,  
watching and waiting, looking above,  
filled with his goodness, lost in his love.  
(Refrain)***

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**Pour out your Spirit upon us, everlasting God;  
As you have done for generations, so now  
enlighten the eyes of our hearts  
that we might live in hope;  
through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

The hand of Yahweh was on me and I was carried away by the spirit of Yahweh and set down in the middle of the valley, a valley full of bones. God made me walk up and down and all around among them. There were vast quantities of these bones on the floor of the valley; and they were completely dry. God said to me, 'Son of man, can these bones live?' I said, 'You know, Lord Yahweh.' God said, 'Prophesy over these bones. Say, "Dry bones, hear the word of Yahweh. The Lord Yahweh says this to these bones: I am now going to make breath enter you, and you will live. I shall put sinews on you, I shall make flesh grow on you, I shall cover you with skin and give you breath, and you will live; and you will know that I am Yahweh." '

I prophesied as I had been ordered. While I was prophesying, there was a noise, a clattering sound; it was the bones coming together. And as I looked, they were covered with sinews; flesh was growing on them and skin was covering them, yet there was no breath in them. Yahweh said to me, 'Prophesy to the breath; prophesy, son of man. Say to the breath, "The Lord Yahweh says this: Come from the four winds, breath; breathe on these dead, so that they come to life!" ' I prophesied as he had ordered me, and the breath entered them; they came to life and stood up on their feet, a great, an immense army.

Then God said, 'Son of man, these bones are the whole House of Israel. They keep saying, "Our bones are dry, our hope has gone; we are done for." So, prophesy. Say to them, "The Lord Yahweh says this: I am now going to open your graves; I shall raise you from your graves, my people, and lead you back to the soil of Israel. And you will know that I am Yahweh, when I open your graves and raise you from your graves, my people, and put my Spirit in you, and you revive, and I resettle you on your own soil. Then you will know that I, Yahweh, have spoken and done this -- declares the Lord Yahweh."

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

**People: Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM

*Sanctuary*

C. Newcomer  
Ron Berry, soloist

*Will you be my refuge  
My haven in the storm  
Will you keep the embers warm  
When my fire's all but gone?  
Will you remember  
And bring me sprigs of rosemary  
Be my sanctuary  
'Til I can carry on*

This one knocked me to the ground  
This one dropped me to my knees  
I should have seen it coming  
But it surprised me *Refrain*

In a state of true believers  
On streets called us and them  
Its gonna take some time  
'Til the world feels safe again *Refrain*

You can rest here in North Church  
Or with a circle of friends  
Or quiet grove of trees  
Or between two bookends *Refrain*

Leader: When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,  
we were like those who dream.

**People: Then our mouth was filled with laughter,  
and our tongue with shouts of joy;**

Leader: then it was said among the nations,  
'God has done great things for them.'

**People: God has done great things for us,  
and we rejoiced.**

Leader: Restore our fortunes, O Lord,  
like the watercourses in the Negeb.

**People: May those who sow in tears  
reap with shouts of joy.**

Leader: Those who go out weeping,  
bearing the seed for sowing,

**People: shall come home with shouts of joy,  
carrying their sheaves.**

## HYMN OF PRAYER

*Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart*

***Spirit of God, descend upon my heart;  
wean it from earth; through all its pulses move;  
stoop to my weakness, mighty as thou art,  
and make me love thee as I ought to love.***

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: You who have been baptized in the name of Jesus,  
come and confess your sins  
to the fierce and tender God,  
whose work is justice and whose delight is mercy:

**People: We confess that we have not believed or acted  
as if your reign will come on earth as it is in heaven.**

Leader: We confess that we have tolerated the spiritual forces of racism.

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Leader: We confess that we have accepted the evil power of war.

**People: Christ, have mercy.**

Leader: We confess that we have benefited from the exploitation of workers.

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Leader: We confess that we have ignored the destruction of creation.

**People: Christ, have mercy.**

Leader: Give us the freedom to resist evil, injustice and oppression  
in whatever forms they present themselves.

**People: Give us the power to rebuild the world  
with goodness, justice and peace.**

Leader: Give us the joy to be a church  
whose worship is your realm  
and whose work is your ever-coming reign.

**People: Amen. Amen. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Leader: God, in your mercy . . .

**People: Hear our prayer.**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

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 trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us.**

**And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever. Amen.**

\*LENTEN DOXOLOGY (PLEASE STAND)

***Praise God throughout these forty days.  
Praise Christ, our Lord, whom God did raise.  
And praise the Spirit who imparts  
God's love in Christ into our hearts. Amen.***

\*GOSPEL LESSON (PLEASE STAND)

John 11:17-44

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.' Jesus said to her, 'Your brother will rise again.' Martha said to him, 'I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?' She said to him, 'Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.'

When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, 'The Teacher is here and is calling for you.' And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.' When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, 'Where have you laid him?' They said to him, 'Lord, come and see.' Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said,

'See how he loved him!' But some of them said, 'Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?'

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.'

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

**People: Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

*Essential Question #5: Do You Need a Greater Hope?*

Darren Cushman Wood

HYMN OF DEDICATION

*Hymn of Promise*

***In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree;  
in cocoons, a hidden promise; butterflies will soon be free!  
In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be,  
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.***

***In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity;  
in our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity.  
In our death, a resurrection; at the last, a victory,  
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.***

DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

POSTLUDE

*In the Cross of Christ I Glory*

arr. D. Cherwien

**This week's worship leaders:**

Darren Cushman Wood

*Senior Pastor*

Tiffany Williams-Fashimpaur

*Pastor of Mission & Outreach*

Heather Hinton

*Organist*

John Hague

*Videographer*

David Wolfe

*Trumpet*

Ron Berry

*Soloist*