



FOURTH SUNDAY
in

LENT

The Service for the Lord's Day
Bethel Presbyterian Church - Online Service
4th Sunday in Lent
March 14, 2021 - 11:00 AM

Welcome

Prelude

Call to Worship (L = Leader, P = People)

L: O mortal, can these bones live?

P: Only the Lord knows.

L: O people, hope in the Lord.

**P: With the Lord there is steadfast love
and great power to redeem.**

Prayer of Invocation

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.

Hymn

“O GOD OF EVERY NATION”

LLANGLOFFAN

*O God of ev-ery na-tion, of ev-ery race and land,
re-deem the whole cre-a-tion with your al-might-y hand.*

*Where hate and fear di-vide us and bit-ter threats are hurled,
in love and mer-cy guide us and heal our strife-torn world.*

*From search for wealth and pow-er and scorn of truth and right,
from trust in bombs that show-er de-struc-tion through the night,
from pride of race and sta-tion and blind-ness to your way,
de-liv-er ev-ery na-tion, e-ter-nal God, we pray.*

*Lord, strength-en those who la-bor that all may find re-lease
From fear of rat-tling sa-ber, from dread of war's in-crease;
when hope and cour-age fal-ter, your still small voice be heard;
with faith that none can al-ter, your ser-vants un-der-gird.*

*Keep bright in us the vi-sion of days when war shall cease,
when ha-tred and di-vi-sion give way to love and peace,
till dawns the morn-ing glo-rious when truth and jus-tice reign
and Christ shall rule vic-to-rious o'er all the world's do-main.*

Call to Confession

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.

Corporate Prayer of Confession

**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.
We seek peace through war and find security in weapons.
We abandon the hungry, sick, and dying,
and pursue wealth by making others poor.
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.**

Declaration of Forgiveness

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. Thanks be to God.

Prayer for Illumination

Let us pray:
O Lord, we wait for you, and in your Word we trust.
By the power of your Spirit,
set our hearts and minds on the source of life and peace:
Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Readings from Holy Scripture

Prophet Ezekiel 37:1-14 (*The Valley of Dry Bones*)

Gospel John 11:1-46 (*The Death of Lazarus*)

Sermon “Life in the Face of Death”
The Rev. Dr. Wendy Neff

Affirmation of Faith

*Taken from The Brief Statement of Faith, 1991,
The Book of Confessions, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)*

In life and death we belong to God.

**Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,**

**and the communion of the Holy Spirit,
we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel,
whom alone we worship and serve.**

**We trust in Jesus Christ,
fully human, fully God.**

**Jesus proclaimed the reign of God:
preaching good news to the poor
and release to the captives,
teaching by word and deed
and blessing the children,
healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted,
eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners,
and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.**

**Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition,
Jesus was crucified,
suffering the depths of human pain
and giving his life for the sins of the world.**

**God raised this Jesus from the dead,
vindicating his sinless life,
breaking the power of sin and evil,
delivering us from death to life eternal.**

Prayers of the People

In desperation we cry to you, O Lord.

We know you hear. We know you care.

We pray for those whose hope is lost,
who feel dried up and cut off from you.

**By your grace, open their graves;
bring them back to the land of the living.**

We pray for those who are oppressed,
held captive by the power of death.

**Release them from their chains;
unbind them and let them go!**

We pray for those who weep,
lost and lifeless in fear and regret.

**Grant them the peace of your presence;
show them what your love can do.**

We pray for those who are dying,
the light of life fading in their eyes.

**Help them to believe in you
so that they may live and never die.**

We thank you, O Lord, for having heard our prayers.

**Enable us to trust in you, and thus to see your glory;
through Jesus Christ, the resurrection and the life. 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 sins,
as we forgive those who sin 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.**

Hymn

“MAKE ME A CHANNEL OF YOUR PEACE”

*Make me a chan-nel of your peace.
Where there is ha-tred, let me bring your love.
Where there is in-ju-ry, your par-don, Lord,
and where there's doubt, true faith in You.*

*Make me a chan-nel of your peace.
Where there's de-spair in life, let me bring hope.
Where there is dark-ness, on-ly light,
and where there's sad-ness, ev-er joy.*

*O, Mas-ter, grant that I may nev-er seek
so much to be con-soled as to con-sole,
to be un-der-stood as to un-der-stand,
to be loved as to love with all my soul.*

*Make me a chan-nel of your peace.
It is in par-don-ing that we are par-doned,
in giv-ing of our-selves that we re-ceive,
and in dy-ing that we're born to e-ter-nal life.*

Benediction

Arise, dry bones, and live!

Come out, Lazarus and give glory to God!

May the Lord Jesus Christ,

who is the resurrection and the life,

bless and keep you in this life and the life to come.

Minister: The Rev. Dr. Wendy Neff

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP THIS MORNING

Pianist: Judy Moyer

Sound: Adam Badger

Video: Jake Horton

“O God of Every Nation”

Text: William W. Reid Jr., 1958, alt.

Music: Welsh folk melody; *Llwybrau Moliant*, 1872
harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906

Text © 1958, ren. 1986 The Hymn Society
(admin. Hope Publishing Company)

“Make Me a Channel of Your Peace”

Text: Anon., c. 1912; adapt. Sebastian Temple, 1967

Music: Sebastian Temple, 1963;

Arr. Alfred V. Fedak, 2011

Text and Music © 1967 OCP

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