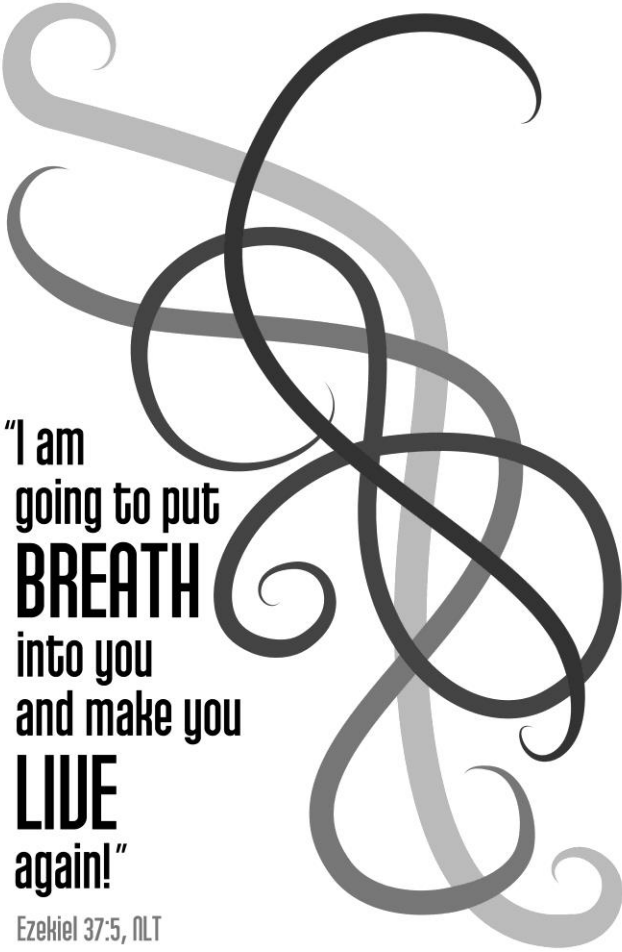


Bethel Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

~ a welcoming community~



"I am
going to put
BREATH
into you
and make you
LIVE
again!"

Ezekiel 37:5, NLT

A SPECIAL WELCOME TO OUR GUESTS:

We extend a warm welcome from Bethel Presbyterian Church!
We invite you to participate in signing the Friendship Folders adding your name and address and if you desire a church newsletter or a pastoral call.

When we pray the Lord's Prayer, we say "sins...sin against us"
rather than "debts..." or "trespasses..."

Prayer requests can be noted on the cards provided in the pew racks and placed in the offering plate.

**The Service for the Lord's Day
Bethel Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
Fifth Sunday in Lent
March 26, 2023 - 11:00 AM**

** Indicates congregation standing if able.
Congregational responses indicated in bold.*

GATHERING AND GREETING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Chiming of the Hour

Welcome and Announcements

Please sign the Friendship Pad found in your pew, passing it down the pew then back.

Prelude

“SWEET HOUR OF PRAYER”

Handbell Choir

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

L: Have you ever felt washed up, brittle, worn-down to the bone?

P: Have you ever felt grief lay heavy on your back?

L: Have you ever felt like hope was out of reach?

P: Have you ever wondered, can these bones live?

L: If you have, then you are in the right place, for this is God's house.
Hope lives here.

P: So, come. Rest your weary bones.

L: Let us worship Holy God.

Prayer of Invocation

Let us pray:

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.

*Breathe on me, Breath of God;
fill me with life a-new,
that I may love what thou dost love,
and do what Thou wouldst do.*

*Breathe on me, Breath of God,
un-til my heart is pure,
un-til with thee I will one will,
to do and to en-dure.*

*Breathe on me, Breath of God,
till I am whol-ly thine,
un-til this earth-ly part of me
glows with thy fire di-vine.*

*Breathe on me, Breath of God,
so shall I nev-er die,
but live with thee the per-fect life
of thine e-ter-ni-ty.*

* Call to Confession

Friends, there is nothing that we have to keep hidden from God—
not our anger, our grief, or the ways in which we have fallen short.
In confession, we speak honestly and are met with grace.
So let us not hold back.

Let us bring our full selves to this prayer,
knowing that God is already running to meet us. Let us pray:

* Corporate Prayer of Confession

**Jesus of Nazareth,
I confess: I forget that you know this feeling.
I forget that you, too, have wept.
I forget that you, too, have lost.
I forget that you, too, have gathered at the tomb,
have grieved for a friend, have felt the sting of humanity.**

**Forgive me for all the times I place blame on you.
Forgive me for all the times I create distance,
imagining that you could never feel what I feel.
Forgive me for allowing the valley of dry bones
to be a sea of space between us.
Pour yourself into the cracks in my heart.
Bring these bones back to life.
Bring me closer to you.
With gratitude I pray, amen.**

* Sung Response No. 437 **“YOU ARE THE LORD, GIVER OF MERCY”**

*You are the Lord, giv-er of mer-cy!
You are the Christ, giv-er of mer-cy!
You are the Lord, giv-er of mer-cy!*

* Words of Forgiveness

Friends, you could spend your whole life ignoring God,
pushing God away, or trying to solve the world’s problems
all on your own, and God would still love you all the same.
Even in our shortcomings, we are God’s beloved.
So hear and believe this good news:
**We are saved by grace through faith.
We belong to God. We are not alone.**

* Sung Response No. 553 **“CHRIST HAS DIED; CHRIST IS RISEN”** LAND OF REST

*Christ has died; Christ is ris-en; Christ will come a-gain.
Christ has died; Christ is ris-en; Christ will come a-gain.*

THE WORD

Children’s Moment

Choral Anthem

“DRY BONES”

Prayer for Illumination

Let us pray:

Creator God, Why is bad news so loud?

In the midst of gun violence, hunger, melting ice caps, and anxiety,
it often feels like suffering has a microphone.

How do we hear you? How do we find you?

How do we know that these bones can live?

Today we bring our raw selves into this space

asking that once more you would

rush through this room like a mighty wind.

Remind us that these bones can live.

Speak to us in your still, small voice

and let it be loud enough to speak to the sorrow of the day.

We know that good news rests in you, and we know that you are here.

So help us listen, not to the bad news of the day alone,

but to the hope that you breathe into every word.

With open hearts we pray, amen.

Readings from Scripture

Wisdom	Psalm 130	<i>(Waiting for Divine Redemption)</i>	Pg. 542
Gospel	John 11:1-45	<i>(The Death of Lazarus)</i>	Pg. 98
Prophet	Ezekiel 37:1-14	<i>(The Valley of Dry Bones)</i>	Pg. 759

Sermon

“Can These Bones Live?”

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

* Affirmation of Faith *Adapted from the Confession of 1967, 9.09*

**God’s reconciling act in Jesus Christ is a mystery
which the Scriptures describe in various ways.**

It is called the sacrifice of a lamb,

**a shepherd’s life given for his sheep, atonement by a priest;
again it is ransom of a slave, payment of debt,**

**vicarious satisfaction of a legal penalty,
and victory over the powers of evil.**

**These are expressions of a truth
which remains beyond the reach of all theory
in the depths of God's love for humankind.
They reveal the gravity, cost, and sure achievement
Of God's reconciling work.**

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the People

Out of the depths we cry to you, O Lord.
Lord, hear our voices and be attentive to our prayers.

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 (*sin / sin against us*)

Hymnal pg. 35

**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.**

Invitation to the Offering

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.

Offertory

“SIMPLE GIFTS”

Handbell Choir

* Hymn No. 606 “**PRAISE GOD, FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW**”

* Prayer of Thanksgiving

Let us pray:

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. Amen.

THE SENDING FORTH

* Hymn

“**CAN THESE BONES LIVE?**”

(Insert)

* Benediction

As you leave this place, may God bless you with seeking.

Seek out the hungry. Seek the weary.

Seek the good in every person you pass.

Seek out the hopeful. Seek the faithful. Seek God in each of us.

As you seek and as you wonder, may you find what you are looking for.

In the name of our loving God, who is always seeking us,
go now in peace. Amen

* Sung Response No. 547 **“GO, MY CHILDREN, WITH MY BLESSING”**

(Verse 3)

“Go, my chil-dren, fed and nour-ished, clos-er to me.

Grow in love and love by serv-ing, joy-ful and free.

Here my Spir-it’s pow-er filled you;

here my ten-der com-fort stilled you.

Go, my chil-dren, fed and nour-ished, joy-ful and free.”

* Postlude

“LORD, I WANT TO BE A CHRISTIAN”

Handbell Choir

MUSIC ATTRIBUTIONS

“You Are the Lord, Giver of Mercy”

Text: Trad. Liturgical text; rev. The Worshipbook, 1970

Text © 1970 The Westminster Press (admin. Westminster John Knox Press)

Music © 1972 The Westminster Press (admin. Westminster John Knox Press)

“Christ Has Died; Christ Is Risen”

Text: Trad. Liturgical text;

Music: American folk melody; arr. Richard Proulx, 1984

Music Arr. © 1986 GIA Publications, Inc.

“Go, My Children, with My Blessing”

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1983

Music: Welsh melody

Text © 1983 Concordia Publishing House

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“Breathe on Me, Breath of God”

“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

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“Can These Bones Live?”

Text: Anna Strickland, 2022

Music: John Goss, 1869

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