

ZION REFORMED UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

March 26, 2023 11:00am

"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." John 11:25



WALKING IN THE WILDERNESS!



Our Mission Statement

To share the gospel of Christ in such a way that we find God, grow our faith, discover our purpose, and make a difference.

Fifth Sunday of Lent

Walking in the Wilderness

March 26, 2023 ☞ 11:00 A.M.

Meditation of the Week: "Someone I loved once gave me a box full of darkness. It took me years to understand that this too, was a gift." ~ Mary Oliver ~

WE GATHER TO PRAISE GOD

** All who are able may stand*

Gathering Music "Passacaglia in c minor" J. S. Bach

Ringing of the Bells

Prelude "Prelude in G Major" J. S. Bach

Words of Welcome

*Call to Community

Breath of Life, you animate us.

We come before you are seeking revival from within.

Holy One, when you speak, great things happen.

Empower us to make great things happen.

Calling One, you bring good things to life.

We desire to bring good things to life too.

*Opening Hymn "Lift High The Cross" Black #198

First Reading Psalm 130 Pastor Katie Penick

Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD.

Lord, hear my voice!

Let your ears be attentive

to the voice of my supplications!

If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities,

Lord, who could stand?

But there is forgiveness with you,

so that you may be revered.

I wait for the LORD, my soul waits,

and in his word I hope;

my soul waits for the Lord

more than those who watch for the morning,
more than those who watch for the morning.

O Israel, hope in the LORD!
For with the LORD there is steadfast love,
and with him is great power to redeem.
It is he who will redeem Israel
from all its iniquities.

Children's Time

Walking in the Wilderness

Anthem

"Fairest Lord Jesus"

Zion Reformed Choir

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Second Reading

Ezekiel 37:1-14

Lector Barbara Hendershot

The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all round them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, 'Mortal, can these bones live?' I answered, 'O Lord GOD, you know.' Then he said to me, 'Prophesy 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. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the LORD.'

So, I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, 'Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.' I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

Then he said to me, 'Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, "Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely." Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act, says the LORD.'

Choral Response

"Jesus Remember Me"

**Jesus remember me when you come into your kingdom
Jesus remember me when you come into your kingdom**

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. 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.

Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

The Message

The Depths of Grief

*Hymn of Praise

"Arise, Your Light Is Come,

Black #164

Invitation to Give

Offertory

Choral Response

"We Praise Thee O God"

Red #19 verse 1

**We praise Thee, O God, our Redeemer, Creator,
In grateful devotion our tribute we bring.
We lay it before Thee, we kneel and adore thee,
We bless Thy holy Name, glad praises we sing.**

Blessing Our Gifts

Divine Sustainer, receive these gifts that we gladly give. May they be used to revive and restore those in need. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

Invitation to the Table

Today, in this place, Jesus Christ invites us to this table. Let us give thanks together that God has remembered us, and yet has forgotten our sins!

Jesus said, "I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever..."

*Hymn of Preparation

"Lord Of The Dance"

See Insert

The Story

The Meal

The Prayer of Response

O God, forgive our forgetting. Remember us, O Christ, as we remember you. For as you remember, we have hope!

Prayer of Our Savior

**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 and ever. Amen.**

*Closing Hymn

"Sanctuary"

John Thompson and Randy Scuggs

**Lord prepare me to be a sanctuary,
pure and holy, tried and true
With thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for You.
Lord prepare me to be a sanctuary,
pure and holy, tried and true
With thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for You.**

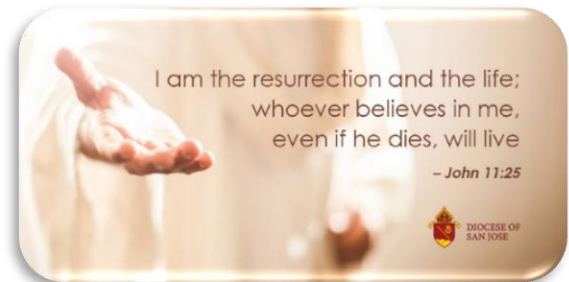
*Sending Forth

Postlude to Service

"Toccata in d minor"

J. S. Bach

GO FORTH IN PEACE & SERVE!



PRAYING WITH ONE ANOTHER

Prayer is one of the most important spiritual disciplines of our faith, promoting communication with God, and love for God and neighbor. Submit your prayer requests to the church office to be included on the prayer list. Join with us in prayer as we pray for all those in our communities that we have touched or that have touched us and those that simply crossed our paths. Let us also remember to pray for peace and safety around the world and to pray with and for our Zion siblings: Holly Bell, Naomi Brackett, Jane Bowen, Brenda Bowers, Linda Cantilena, Richard Cantilena, Kim & Bill Cook, Ronald Curry Sr., Garber Family, Michael Graff Jr. (son of Sue and Mike), Teddy Grogan, Beth Gross, Sherry Hockman, Lyn Hoffmaster, Jane Hollabaugh, Paul Hose, Michael Jones, Ann Kalinoski, Rhonda Kane, Alyssa Kline, Dee Krause, Jerri Livingston, Anthony Martin, Sofia Martinez, Dee McGlauchkin, Mary Murphy, Barry & Amy Newlin, Annie Penick, James Penick, Sue Penick, Mark Plotner, Michelle Porter, David Ridenour, Mackenzie Ridenour, Betsy Roulette, Verna Rosenfield, Brianna Russell, Jeff Shade, Ralph & Scherry Sellers, Staci Shafer, Danny & Julia Springer, Jovan Summers, Thelma Summers, Martha Tallant, Tracy Roach Walls, Eleanor Wible, Eric Wolbring, Robert Yeoman

**Prayer Requests remain active on the prayer list for 4-weeks unless renewed.*

Lector for this week is Barb Hendershot, next week is Calvin Livingston.

Ushers for this week are Domenick Gerlando, Barb Hendershot, Matt McDonald, William Wantz.

Next week ushers are William Brewer, Calvin Livingston, Gerald Saum, Jean Simmons.



Happy Birthday Sue Graff 04/01

Happening this week:

- 3/28 Tuesday Supper and 1 Stop Shop 5:00-6:00 downstairs in Fellowship Hall
- 3/29 Lenten Bible Study at Christ Reformed UCC 12:00
 - Executive Board Meeting 2:00
 - Properties Team Meeting 4:00
 - Lenten Potluck and Service 6:30
- 3/30 Staff Meeting 1:00
 - Choir Practice 4:00
 - 4-H Club Meeting 4:30-6:00



**Service Credits
March 26**

Adapted from [https://www.ucc.org/what-we-do/justice-local-church-ministries/local-church/worship-resources/worship-ways-2, /](https://www.ucc.org/what-we-do/justice-local-church-ministries/local-church/worship-resources/worship-ways-2/)

Gathering music: Passacaglia in C minor. Composed by J. S. Bach. © 1949 by G. Schirmer, Inc. Performed by C. M. Moblard (organist) of Zion Reformed UCC. Performed by C. M. Moblard (organist) of Zion Reformed UCC.

Prelude: Prelude in G Major. Composed by J. S. Bach. © 1949 by G. Schirmer, Inc. Performed by C. M. Moblard (organist) of Zion Reformed UCC. Performed by C. M. Moblard (organist) of Zion Reformed UCC.

Hymns: Lift High the Cross. NCH 198. Composed by Sydney Hugo Nicholson. (1916). Words by George Henry Kitchin. Performed by C. M. Moblard (organist) of Zion Reformed UCC.
Lord of the Dance. Composed by Sydney Carter. Performed by C. M. Moblard (organist) of Zion Reformed UCC.

Arise, Your Light is Come! NCH 164. Composed by William Walter (1872). Words by Ruth Duck (1973). Performed by C. M. Moblard (organist) of Zion Reformed UCC.
Sanctuary. Composed by Randy Scruggs and John Thompson. Words by Randy Scruggs. Performed by C. M. Moblard (organist) of Zion Reformed UCC.

Source(s): Hymnary (hymnary.org).

Choral anthem: Fairest Lord Jesus. Composed by Derick Hakes. Arr. by Craig Courtney. © 2003 by Beckhorst Press.

Offertory: Meditation on "Amazing Grace." Arr. by Frederick Swann. © 1998 by Tarna Music. Performed by C. M. Moblard (organist) of Zion Reformed UCC.

Communion: In Christ There is No East or West. Composed by Alexander R. Reinagle. Performed by C. M. Moblard (pianist) of Zion Reformed UCC.

They'll Know We are Christians by Our Love. Composed by Peter Scholtes. Both arr. by Mark Hayes. © 2016 by Lorenz Publishing Co. Performed by C. M. Moblard (pianist) of Zion Reformed UCC.

Postlude: Toccata in d minor ("Dorian"). Composed by J. S. Bach. © 1949 by G. Schirmer, Inc. Performed by C. M. Moblard (organist) of Zion Reformed UCC. Performed by C. M. Moblard (organist) of Zion Reformed UCC.



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