



**March 29, 2020**  
Fifth Sunday in Lent  
10 a.m.

**Prelude** *Far Rolling Voices* *I-toh Loh*

**Candle Lighting**

*Our worship begins as we focus on Christ's light. You are encouraged to light a candle in your own home, and quietly prepare yourself to feel Christ's presence.*

**Words of Welcome**

Rev. Elissa Johnk

**Introit**

*What Wondrous Love is This*

*Southern Harmony*

**Call to Worship**

*by Bruce Pewter, adapted*

Leader: Open our lives, loving Spirit, to the opportunities of every season.

In the season of success give us gratitude and humility.

**All: In the season of frustration give us patience and serenity.**

Leader: In the season of failure give us repentance and sincerity.

**All: In the season of isolation give us insight and depth.**

Leader: In the season of disease give us health of spirit.

**All: In the season of despair give us hope.**

Leader: In whatever season we find ourselves, may we find what we need most in this hour of worship and prayer. Let us pray.

**Invocation**

**\*Opening Hymn**

*Shall We Gather at the River*

NCH 597

**Hebrew Bible Reading** From Ezekiel 37:1-14

*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. <sup>2</sup> He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. <sup>3</sup> He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." <sup>4</sup> Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD... <sup>5</sup> I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live... and you shall know that I am the LORD."*

*<sup>7</sup> 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. <sup>8</sup> 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. <sup>9</sup> Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, 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." <sup>10</sup> I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.*

*11 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.' 12 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... 14 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."*

## **Call to Confession and Prayer of Confession**

*by Rev. Elizabeth Dilley*

**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. 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.**

## **Silent Prayer**

### **\*Words of Assurance**

### **\*Passing of the Peace**

*During this time we are going to focus on taking a moment to recognize what peace there is in our lives, and how we can pass that to others, especially in a time of isolation.*

## **Musical Meditation**

*Let There Be Peace on Earth*

*Sy Miller/Jill Jackson*

## **Gospel Reading**

*John 11:32-45, The Death of Lazarus*

*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." 33 When Jesus saw her weeping, and those who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. 34 He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." 35 Jesus began to weep. 36 So they 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?"*

*38 Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. 39 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 four days." 40 Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" 41 So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. 42 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." 43 When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" 44 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." 45 Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.*

## **Sermon**

### **\*Hymn of Thanksgiving**

*Precious Lord, Take My Hand*

*NCH 472*

## **Reading**

*To Bless the Space Between Us, excerpted*

*by John O'Donohue*

## **Prayers of the People with 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.**

**Call to the Offering**

**Offertory**

*We Laugh, We Cry, We Sing*

*Shelley Jackson Denham*

*You are invited to use this time to make your gifts electronically.*

*Give online: <https://onrealm.org/FirstChurchBurlington/-/give/now>*

*Text FCCBUCC to 73256 to give a gift using your text messaging. Standard text message rates apply.*

*You can also write a check and mail it to 38 S. Winooski, Burlington, VT 05401.*

**\*Doxology**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below;

Praise God above ye heavenly host; Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

**\*Closing Hymn**

*God Be with You*

NCH 81

God be with you till we meet again; By good counsel guide, uphold you,  
With a shepherd's care enfold you: God be with you till we meet again.

*Refrain: Till we meet, till we meet, till we meet at Jesus' feet;  
till we meet, till we meet, God be with you till we meet again.*

God be with you till we meet again; Wings of shelter safely hide you,  
Daily manna still provide you: God be with you till we meet again.

*Refrain*

God be with you till we meet again; When life's perils thick confound you,  
Put unfailing arms around you: God be with you till we meet again.

*Refrain*

God be with you till we meet again; Keep love's banner floating o'er you,  
Smite deaths threatening wave before you: God be with you till we meet again.

*Refrain*

**\*Bidding to Mission and Benediction**

*\*Please stand as you are able, in body or in spirit.*