



Centenary
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

March 26, 2023

Fifth Sunday in Lent

As the Prelude begins, you are invited to enter a time of prayer and meditation as we prepare to worship God together.

The Prelude

Blessed Assurance

Phoebe P. Knapp

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The Introit

Out of the depths I call, to God I send my cry;
Lord, hear my supplicating voice and graciously reply.

The Call to Worship

Leader: Our lives feel all disjointed as though they were a valley of dry bones.

People: But the Spirit of God will bring connection and continuity to our lives.

Leader: The Spirit of God breathes hope into each one of us.

People: The Spirit of God challenges us to be people of faith.

Leader: Open our hearts, Lord, and bring us to your light.

People: Open our lives, Lord, and break us free from doubt and fear. Amen.

The Hymn No. 420

Breathe on Me, Breath of God

TRENTHAM

1. Breathe on me, Breath of God, fill me with life anew,
that I may love what thou dost love, and do what thou wouldst do.
2. Breathe on me, Breath of God, until my heart is pure,
until with thee I will one will, to do and to endure.
3. Breathe on me, Breath of God, till I am wholly thine,
till all this earthly part of me glows with thy fire divine.
4. Breathe on me, Breath of God, so shall I never die,
but live with thee the perfect life of thine eternity.

The Opening Prayer

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

All: Healing and Empowering God,

we are sometimes so sure that things will not work out,

we doubt even your ability to put things right in our lives.

We lack such faith.

But Jesus came to show us that our most dreaded enemy--death—

can be overcome by faith.

Heal our doubts and our longings for assurance

and give us spirits of trust and hope. In Jesus' Name, we pray. Amen.

The Announcements

The Prayer for Illumination

Ps. 120:1-2a
Jane Marshall

In my dis - tress I cry to the Lord: "De -
5
liv - er me, O Lord."

Response

- 1 Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord!
Lord, hear my voice!
- 2 **Let your ears be attentive
to the voice of my supplications!**
- 3 If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities,
Lord, who could stand?
- 4 **But there is forgiveness with you,
that you may be worshiped.**
- 5 I wait for the Lord, my soul waits,
in the Lord's word I hope.
- 6 **my soul waits for the Lord
more than those who watch for the morning,
more than those who watch for the morning.**
- 7 O Israel, hope in the Lord!
For with the Lord there is steadfast love,
with the Lord is plenteous redemption.
- 8 **And the Lord will redeem Israel
from all iniquities.**

Response**The Old Testament Lesson**

Ezekiel 37:1-14

The Hymn No. 472*Near to the Heart of God*

McAFEE

1. There is a place of quiet rest, near to the heart of God;
a place where sin cannot molest, near to the heart of God.

Refrain:

- O Jesus, blest Redeemer, sent from the heart of God,
hold us who wait before thee near to the heart of God.
2. There is a place of comfort sweet, near to the heart of God;
a place where we our Savior meet, near to the heart of God. **Refrain**
 3. There is a place of full release, near to the heart of God;
a place where all is joy and peace, near to the heart of God. **Refrain**

The Sermon*The Life-Giving God*

Dr. Matt Bates

The Offertory Prayer

The Offertory Anthem

I Am the Resurrection

Gallus Dressler

I am the resurrection and the life.
All who believe in me will surely live,
even though they die;
and whosoever lives and believes in me,
they shall nevermore come to death.

John 11:25-26

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The Prayers of the People

The Silent Prayer

The Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer No. 895

**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 that 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.**

The Hymn No. 553

And Are We Yet Alive

DENNIS

1. And are we yet alive, and see each other's face?
Glory and thanks to Jesus give for his almighty grace!
2. Preserved by power divine to full salvation here,
again in Jesus' praise we join, and in his sight appear.
3. What troubles have we seen, what mighty conflicts past,
fightings without, and fears within, since we assembled last!
4. Yet out of all the Lord hath brought us by his love;
and still he doth his help afford, and hides our life above.
5. Then let us make our boast of his redeeming power,
which saves us to the uttermost, till we can sin no more.
6. Let us take up the cross till we the crown obtain,
and gladly reckon all things loss so we may Jesus gain.

The Benediction

The Choral Response

Let Israel trust in God; no bounds his mercy knows;
the plenteous source and spring from whence redemption ever flows.

The altar flowers this morning are in memory my parents on the 87th anniversary of their marriage by Suzanne Ray.

Reminder! Help us know that you worshiped with us this morning by signing the online attendance pad [here](#).

Thank you to all the volunteers who helped us this morning and throughout the week to make this worship possible.

Scripture

Ezekiel 37:1-14

The Valley of Dry Bones

37 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. ² He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. ³ He said to me, “Mortal, can these bones live?” I answered, “O Lord GOD, you know.” ⁴ Then he said to me, “Prophecy to these bones and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. ⁵ Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. ⁶ 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.”

⁷ 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. ⁸ 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. ⁹ Then he said to me, “Prophecy 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.” ¹⁰ 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. ¹³ And you shall know that I am the LORD when I open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people. 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.”

Welcome!

Centenary United Methodist Church is a Reconciling Congregation, extending hospitality and encouraging full participation of all, regardless of age, race, national origin, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, marital status, education, economic background, and physical or mental ability.

We are glad that you have joined us today! If you are a new guest, we hope that you experience a warm welcome! Please return soon and consider us for your church home. If you are interested in church membership, please speak with a pastor.

Announcements

UMCOR SUNDAY - Through the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) we are able to provide hope for communities and individuals whose lives have been upset by storms, wars, fires, displacement and climate change. This ministry is achieved exclusively through your generosity. UMCOR Sunday is a denomination wide celebration designed to raise awareness and support for UMCOR. The special offering Sunday underwrites the administrative costs associated with the operation of the ministry so that 100% of any donations for a specific appeal will go towards that project and not administrative cost. UMCOR would be unable to do this work without your support so please consider the good work they do for those in extreme need and help them continue this mission by donating this Sunday. You can give online by choosing UMCOR Sunday in the Fund pull down menu, or please write UMCOR Sunday in the memo line of your check.

COLLECTION FOR THE DOORWAYS - We have another opportunity to collect non-perishable food for The Doorways. The Doorways provides a home away from home for the families with a loved one at participating Richmond-area hospital partners. Our collection of canned and packaged goods will help The Doorways supply the residents the items they need to prepare their own meals. To find out more about The Doorways, please visit their website – thedorways.org. Thank you for your generous donations!

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY - Join us on Wednesday as we gather on Zoom to look at the scripture for the upcoming week. An email is out with all the details on Tuesdays. If you would like to be added to the Bible study email list, please contact the church office.

THE CHOSEN - SEASON 3 – Join us today in Fellowship Hall immediately following the service as we watch the season finale of *The Chosen*.

Upcoming Events

THIS WEEK

March 26	9:30 am 10:30 am 11:30 am	Let's Get Acquainted In-person and Livestream Worship The Chosen
March 27	5:00 pm	Change the World/RVA
March 28	Noon	AA
March 29	10:00 am 7:15 pm	Zoom Bible Study Choir Rehearsal
March 31	10:30 am	Friday Lunch Program
April 1	1:00 pm	Smethie Circle at Leah Hundley's house
April 2	Palm Passion Sunday 10:00 am 10:30 am	Blessing of the Palms at St. Paul's Episcopal Palm Sunday Worship

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

April 6 **Holy Thursday Service – 7:30 pm**

April 7 **Good Friday Service -7:30 pm**

April 9 **Easter Worship – 10:30 am**

All services at Centenary are in person and online.