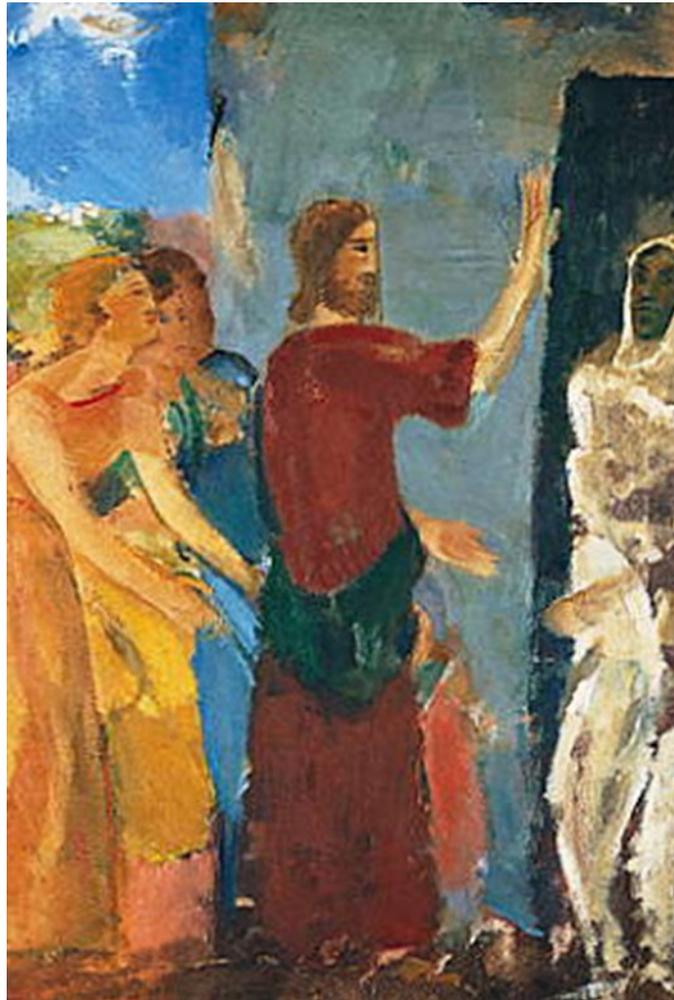


March 29, 2020

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Virtual Sunday Celebration • 10:30 AM



SAINT ANDREW
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



Rev. Paul Werner, Pastor

Bruce Ensinger, Director of Music Ministry

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“Every parting gives a foretaste of death;
every coming together again a foretaste of the resurrection.”

Arthur Schopenhauer (19th century)

“In a world where the dead have returned to life,
the word ‘trouble’ loses much of its meaning.”

Dennis Hopper (20th century)

“Cynicism is when a small mind and a hurt heart reject the hope,
love, and truth of a big and caring God.”

Jayce O’Neal (21st century)

“It must be that I am not made to be a dead man,
but these places and this discussion seem like a dream,
and not a dream dreamed by me but by someone else still to be born.”

Jorge Luis Borges (20th century)

“It is not more surprising to be born twice than once;
everything in nature is resurrection.”

Voltaire (18th century)

“It is not easy to convey a sense of wonder,
let alone resurrection wonder, to another.

It’s the very nature of wonder to catch us off guard,
to circumvent expectations and assumptions.

Wonder can’t be packaged, and it can’t be worked up.

It requires some sense of being there and some sense of engagement.”

Eugene H. Peterson (21st century)

CENTERING MUSIC

GATHERING WORDS OF WELCOME

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Compassionate God, the wind of your Spirit is the very sign of life for all who long for you. One breath from you and we are rescued from the arid valley of dry bones, given muscles and sinews and joy with which to praise you, and filled with the holy hope you grant to all your faithful children. Let our whole lives be filled with the life-breath of the Spirit, that what has lain dormant may burst into bloom, and what looks to us to be death may be revealed as but sleep before the emergence of new life. Amen.

SONG

When We Face an Unknown Future

by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

Tune: BEACH SPRING

SCRIPTURES

Ezekiel 37:1-14 (New Revised Standard Version)

The hand of God came upon me, and it brought me out by the spirit of God and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. God led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. God said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Most High God, you know." Then God said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of God. Thus says the Most High 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 God." 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.

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Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Most High God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." I prophesied as God commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude. Then God 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 prophecy, and say to them, Thus says the Most High 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 God, 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, God, have spoken and will act," says God.

John 11:1-45 (New Revised Standard Version)

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 Promised One 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 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.

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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 Promised One, 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 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 upward and said, "Creator, 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.

SONG

You, O Christ, Are Resurrection

by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

Tune: HYMN TO JOY

MESSAGE

“Getting Ready—Or Something Like That”

Rev. Paul

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PASTORAL PRAYER

LORD’S PRAYER / 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. Amen.

*Feel free to pray with the traditional words or use *Our Father and Mother* or *Our Creator*, etc.

BENEDICTION

God bless you and keep you;
May God make God’s face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you;
May God lift up God’s countenance upon you, and give you peace.
(Numbers 6:24-26)

CLOSING MUSIC

Welcome to St. Andrew United Church of Christ!

The United Church of Christ is a mainline Protestant denomination that has one million members in over 5,500 congregations. Formed in 1957 as a merger of the Evangelical and Reformed Church and the Congregational Christian Churches, the UCC traces its roots back to the Protestant Reformation and also incorporates modern Christian traditions.

- ◆ We believe that faith is a matter of heart and mind.
- ◆ We believe that taking the Bible seriously does not mean taking it literally.
- ◆ We believe that God embraces all people equally.
- ◆ We believe that we are called to be nothing less than global citizens.
- ◆ We believe that the social expression of love is justice.
- ◆ We believe that every generation is called to discover new faith traditions.
- ◆ We believe that God continues to speak through the actions and words of persons today, just as in times of old.

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you're welcome here.

Our Core Values

- ◆ We are a **Just Peace** church. We promote peace with justice (a just peace) as an expression of God's love, and we support peaceful opposition to intolerance, injustice, discrimination, violence, and war.
- ◆ We are an **Open and Affirming** church. We covenant to affirm and welcome visitors, members, and staff of all sexual orientations and gender identities, just as we extend the same loving affirmation and welcome to people of every age, faith, race, ethnicity, sex, nationality, marital status, and physical or mental ability.

ST. ANDREW UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Rev. Paul Werner, Pastor
Bruce Ensinger, Director of Music Ministry
Brianne Tuinstra, Church Administrator
Bob Stewart, Sexton



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
a just world for all

Have you remembered St. Andrew UCC in your will?