



seeking:
honest questions
for deeper faith

GEORGETOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
GEORGETOWN, DE 19947
March 26, 2023

Fifth Sunday of Lent



seeking:

Can these
bones live?

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

INTROIT

“SEEK YE FIRST”

Seek ye first the kingdom of God and its righteousness...

WORDS OF WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

REV. LISA SALITA, PASTOR

WELCOME NEW MEMBER

HELEN SALITA, BY TRANSFER

MINUTE FOR MISSION

MICHELE FLETCHER

PRELUDE

“WE, THY PEOPLE, PRAISE THEE”

*CALL TO WORSHIP

THEO LAWRENCE, WORSHIP LEADER

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

Have you ever felt grief lay heavy on your back?

Have you ever felt like hope was out of reach?

Have you ever wondered, can these bones live?

If you have, then you are in the right place, for this is God's house.

Hope lives here.

So, come. Rest your weary bones.

Let us worship Holy God.

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION

**Indicates that the congregation is invited to stand in body and/or in Spirit.*

***OPENING HYMN** *“PRAISE THE ONE WHO BREAKS THE DARKNESS”* #93

FAITH SHARING WITH CHILDREN

CALL TO CONFESSION

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

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.

***PRAYER RESPONSE** *“AMAZING LOVE”* #259 (Refrain)

*Amazing love, O what sacrifice, the Son of God, given for me;
 my debt he pays and my death he dies, that I might live, that I might live.*

FIRST READING *EZEKIEL 37: 1 - 14* OT, p. 75

ANTHEM *“AVE VERUM CORPUS”*
*PHILOMENA FISCHER, CONNIE SCHNEIDER,
 NORMAN BERGSTROM, EMIL SCHNEIDER*

GOSPEL READING *JOHN 11: 1 - 45* NT, p. 98

SERMON**SEEKING:
CAN THESE BONES LIVE?**

THE REV. TRACY KEENAN

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe that God loves us—
God loves us enough to weep when we are gone.
 We believe that God does not give up on us—
breathing new life into tired bones.
 We believe that God returns to us—
always seeking us when we are lost.
 We believe that God holds hope for us—
so we hold onto hope as well.
 We believe, help our unbelief.
 In Christ's name we pray, amen.

CALL FOR THE OFFERING**OFFERTORY** ***"PRAISE, MY SOUL, THE KING OF HEAVEN"******OFFERTORY RESPONSE*****"ALL THINGS ARE YOURS!"***

#687, v. 1

*All things are yours! We make that true when we return our gifts to you.
 And so we give, and so we share, in Christ's strong name expressing care.*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**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.*

SENDING HYMN**"CAN THESE BONES LIVE?"****LAUDA ANIMA, ("Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven")*

can these bones live?

LAUDA ANIMA ("PRAISE MY SOUL, THE KING OF HEAVEN")



Scan to hear
the tune!

Text: Anna Strickland (2022)

Music: John Goss (1869)



When the past is dead and bu - ried
When our hearts are bowed in sor - row
When our spi - rits feel so bro - ken



Life - less in the bar - ren ground
And the grief is new - ly wrought
Wrapped in lin - ens and en - tombed



What good can e - merge from ash - es?
Cry - ing "If you'd on - ly been here"
With - out hope and with - out feel - ing



Where can an - y life be found?
Weep - ing for what we have lost
As the storm clouds 'round us loom



Breathe in deep the rush - ing Spi - rit
Re - sur - rect our hearts and spi - rits
Hear the words of life from Je - sus



Life is grow - ing all a - round
Liv - ing God whom we ex - alt
"Come out, be un - bound" and bloom

***BENEDICTION**

We are grateful to Rev. Dr. Tracy Keenan, for being with us as Pastor Lisa continues to recover. And we are grateful to Sallie Horner, our organist and Director of Music during Linda Wolfe's recovery. Thanks to our quartet today for sharing their gifts of music with us. Our congregation is blessed by your gifts and your service!

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING MASKING

**TO CONTINUE OUR PRACTICE OF FOLLOWING DELAWARE GUIDELINES,
AND OUT OF CONCERN FOR OUR VULNERABLE WORSHIPERS AND**

FOR OUR NEIGHBORS AND COMMUNITY,

GEORGETOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NOW RECOMMENDS THAT

THOSE WITH HEALTH RISKS OR CONCERNS WEAR MASKS INSIDE THE BUILDING.

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**WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE LIFE
OF OUR CONGREGATION?**



Opportunities for WORSHIP

Our Choir is inviting YOU to join them as they prepare for special music for Palm Sunday and Easter. Come rehearse beginning next Sunday, March 26, immediately following worship.

We need seven readers and seven helpers (no speaking) during our Palm / Passion Sunday worship service on April 2. There's a sign-up sheet in the welcome area, or call Nancy in the church office. Pastor Lisa will follow up with details.

On Easter morning our sanctuary will be decorated with a collection of potted flowers brought by members of our congregation. On Saturday, April 8, the Church will be open in the afternoon to receive your flowers for decorating our Sanctuary. More details to come!!

Opportunities to GROW

Sunday School for children and youth will be offered during worship, following our Faith Sharing Time. There are special worship bulletins highlighting each week's theme. On Palm Sunday and Easter, our children and youth will remain in the sanctuary for the full worship service.

Opportunities to CONNECT

Annual Easter Egg Hunt

As is our tradition, we will hold an Easter Egg Hunt for the children after Easter Sunday worship on April 9. Donations of candy and other small things to put in the eggs are needed - no eggs are needed. We'll collect them in the office April 3 - 6.

Annual Easter Breads Fellowship

Immediately following Easter morning's worship service, the congregation will gather for our Easter Breads Fellowship in Tunnell Hall. This will allow time to prepare for the Easter egg hunt, which will follow.

Opportunities to SERVE

For March, we are collecting breakfast foods for our **First Fruits Cart**.

We are collecting a special offering for **One Great Hour of Sharing**. The bulletin insert provides information. Please use the envelope provided. If writing a check, please make it out to GPC and write One Great Hour of Sharing in the memo line.

Our next **Mobile Food Pantry** will be Tuesday, April 4th from 11-1 in our parking lot, in cooperation with the Food Bank of Delaware. We need volunteers to assist with set-up, distribution of food, intake information and clean-up afterwards. Please arrive by 10:30 to help with the set-up of tables and chairs. Let Linda Wolfe or Gail Brown know if you are available. Thank you.

IF YOU ARE VISITING WITH US— WE ARE GLAD YOU'RE HERE!

*WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN US EACH SUNDAY MORNING AT 10:00 FOR WORSHIP.
FOR INFORMATION ABOUT OPPORTUNITIES TO WORSHIP, CONNECT, GROW, AND
SERVE, OR FOR JOINING OUR FELLOWSHIP,
PLEASE CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE AT (302) 856-6842.*



GEORGETOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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