

*We are a community growing and learning in the love and grace of Jesus Christ, welcoming all to know and share the Gospel.*

March 29<sup>s</sup>, 2020

## **Lent 5**

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### **Gathering**

#### **Prelude**

“In Light of the Common Day”

- Phil Keaggy

(Link to music: <https://youtu.be/giFqKu2Eqfw>)

#### **Confession for Lent**

If we say we have no sin we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. Let us confess our sin to God who is faithful and just and who has promised to forgive our sin and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.*

Our self-centered living, our exploitation of other people, and our failing to love kindness, do justice and walk humbly with you,  
**we confess to you, O God.**

Our longing to have what is not ours, and hearts that are not at rest with ourselves,  
**we confess to you, O God.**

Our misuse of human relationships and our unwillingness to see Jesus in others,  
**we confess to you, O God.**

Jealousies that divide families and nations, rivalries that create strife and warfare,  
**we confess to you, O God.**

Judgementalism, uncharitable thoughts towards our neighbours, and prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,  
**we confess to you, O God.**

Reluctance in sharing the time, talents and resources you have given us,  
**we confess to you, O God.**

Waste and pollution of creation, and lack of concern for those who come after us,

**we confess to you, O God.**

Hurtful words that condemn and angry deeds that harm,  
**we confess to you, O God.**

Timidity at talking about the place of Jesus and the movement of the Holy Spirit in our lives, negligence in worship and prayer, and wasting your gifts of love and grace,  
**we confess to you, O God.**

Restore us, O God, restore our relationships with you, with our neighbours and with creation, and renew a right spirit within us. **Amen**

## **Gathering Hymn**

### *When We Face An Unknown Future*

Music to accompany this hymn is found at: <https://youtu.be/3vJOsmQk9Ck>

*(Many of us know this tune as "Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service.")*

1. When we face an unknown future that we can't imagine yet,  
When the closeness we have treasured turns from closeness into threat  
As we miss our friends and loved ones, as we crave community  
May we look, God, in this season for a whole new way to be.
2. Jesus faced the lonely desert as a time to look within.  
There he met such trial and conflict; there he knew you were with him.  
In this time of separation, when we miss the life we've known,  
My we hear your voice proclaiming: "I am here, you're not alone."
3. May we cherish those around us as we never have before.  
May we think much less of profit; may we learn what matters more.  
May we hear our neighbour's suffering; may we see our neighbour's pain.  
May we learn new ways of offering life and health and hope again.
4. God when illness comes to threaten, and when so much here goes wrong,  
May we know this thing for certain: that your love is sure and strong.  
You're beside is in our suffering, and when times are surely tough,  
We may face an unknown future, but it's filled, Lord, with your love.

## Invocation

We worship as we live, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

## Prayer of the Day

Let us pray,

Most High God, Jesus came into the world to free us all from sin and death. Breathe upon us the power of your Spirit, that we may be raised to new life in Christ and serve you in righteousness all our days, through Jesus Christ our Lord who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

## Word

### **A reading from the prophet Ezekiel, the 37<sup>th</sup> chapter.**

*The setting for this reading is the exile. About 600 years before Jesus, the Babylonian Empire defeated Judah, tore down the city walls of Jerusalem, destroyed the temple, and sent off many of the people into captivity in Babylon, an exile that lasted nearly sixty years. Ezekiel was a Jewish prophet living in exile in Babylon.*

*The Reading:* 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, 'Prophecy 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, '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.' 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.’

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Song for Reflection**

“Come Alive (Dry Bones)”

- Lauren Daigle

Link to song with lyrics: <https://youtu.be/VuCLqoxigNA>

## **Gospel**

The holy gospel according to John, the 11<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*The Reading... (video clip: [https://youtu.be/eheqS\\_eteFA](https://youtu.be/eheqS_eteFA) )*

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon - [https://youtu.be/t\\_QciPwPoWI](https://youtu.be/t_QciPwPoWI)**

## **Hymn of the Day**

*Jesus Is A Rock in a Weary Land*

(Link to hymn: <https://youtu.be/tPWOZWjnYL4> )

*Chorus:*

*Jesus is a rock in a weary land, a weary land, a weary land,  
My Jesus is a rock in a weary land, a shelter in the time of storm.*

1. No one can do like Jesus,  
Not a mumbling word he said;  
He went walking down to Lazarus' grave,  
And he raised him from the dead. (*chorus*)

2. When Jesus was on earth,  
The flesh was very weak;  
He took a towel and girded himself  
And he washed his disciples' feet. (*chorus*)
  
3. Yonder comes my Saviour,  
Him whom I love so well;  
He has the palm of victory  
And the keys of death and hell. (*chorus*)

## Prayers

*These prayers were prepared by Pastor Rick Pryce, pastor of Zion Lutheran Church in Lunenburg, Nova Scotia.*

Acknowledging our broken world, we come to God in prayer, asking for faith and healing.

*[Pause for silence and reflection...]*

God of love, we are broken; we are isolated; we are sick and we are dying; and, like Martha, we wonder why you do not come. Thank you for listening to our complaint. In your unbounded mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

God of love, we are mourning; we are crying; we are in pain, and, like Mary, we wonder why you have not stepped in. Thank you for crying with us. In your unbounded mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

God of love, our world is in turmoil; our lives have been turned upside down; we hear conflicting messages, and like Mary and Martha, we wonder why you seem so distant. Thank you for your promise which walks through our confusion with us. In your unbounded mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

God of love, your church is cut off; we are unable to gather, and like the crowds, we feel powerless in the face of this overwhelming reality. Thank you for letting us hear your prayer. In your unbounded mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

God of love, we are conscious of so much need; we are surrounded by discouragement; we are overwhelmed with the desperation of so many people, so many causes, so much pain, and like Mary, Martha and the crowds, we only

seem capable of hearing our own anxiety. Thank you for your silent compassion which provides us a safe place to be. In your unbounded mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

God of love, we are aware of those who are sick, those who care for them, those whose work is suddenly dangerous, those who cannot work, and those who are attempting keep us safe. We pray especially for Margarete and Harry, Gladys, Bill, John, Karen, Nelly, Ada, Grace, Francis, Tammy Breau and all the family and friends who mourn her father Randy's passing, and those whom we name before you. *[Names of those who are of special concern may be offered.]* We thank you for your promise that nothing will separate us from your love. In your unbounded mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

God of love, we crave your presence; we crave your healing; we crave your life, and like Lazarus, we crave your call to be unbound. Thank you for coming. In your unbounded mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Trusting the promise of mercy, we pray in the name of Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord, who taught us to pray, **Our Father, who art in heaven...**

## **Sending**

### **Benediction**

May God,  
who created us to live in love,  
who died and rose to bring us new life,  
and who gently guides us in all our hard places, bless us all, now and forever.  
Amen.

### **Sending Hymn**

*What Wondrous Love Is This?*

(Link to hymn with lyrics: <https://youtu.be/n-UmemwpAvA>)

### **Dismissal**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God!**

## Postlude

“In Light of the Common Day (Reprise)” - Phil Keaggy

Link to Postlude: <https://youtu.be/ijYFSelH7wo>

## Announcements

- All gatherings at the church are suspended until further notice. However, we remain a Christian community of faith committed to living and proclaiming the gospel in our lives in whatever ways we are able under the current circumstances. Please let us know how we can help you do that at this time. Also, let us know if you need assistance, especially picking up groceries or supplies.
- Pastor Brian is available for pastoral care and prayer and can be reached by phone at 519-209-1333.
- Even though we cannot gather in person for worship, our shared expenses as a church remain fairly constant. Please continue to support the church with your offerings, which can be dropped off at the church mailbox, or you might consider Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR) or e-transfer.
- The newest edition of “Eternity for Today” is available to be picked up at the church office. We can arrange to have a copy delivered to your home, if you like. Just let us know. (Pastor Brian wrote one week of devotions in this edition.)