

First Presbyterian Church

Service for the Lord's Day
5th Sunday in Lent

April 6, 2014

10:00 a.m.

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

Gathering Music: 53, 455

Concerns of the Church

Prelude "Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee" Dykes/Smith
Alison Kane and Beverly Bright, Piano

Call to Worship Ezek. 37:3; Ps. 130:7

O mortal, can these bones live?

Only the Lord God knows.

O people, hope in the Lord.

With the Lord there is steadfast love and great power to redeem.

* Hymn 12 "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"
Ushers will collect prayer request cards from the center aisle.

* Call to Confession

* Prayer of Confession

**Holy and merciful God,
in your presence we confess
our failure to be what you created us to be.
You alone know how often we have sinned
in wandering from your ways, in wasting your gifts,
in forgetting your love.
By your loving mercy,
help us to live in your light and abide in your ways,
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior.**

* Silent Confession

* Assurance of Pardon

* Passing of the Peace

* Response (71)

**Surely it is God who saves me, I will trust and not be afraid.
For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense,
and God will be my Savior.**

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson: Ezekiel 37:1-14 (OT, p. 806)

A Time with Children

Special Music "Wondrous Love" arr. McChesney

Gospel Lesson: John 11:17-45 (OT, p. 105)

Sermon: "Easter Life in a Lenten Graveyard" Rev. Carter

RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

* Hymn 53 "O God, Who Gives Us Life"

* Affirmation of Faith: Romans 8:10-11

**If Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin,
the Spirit is life because of righteousness.
If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you,
he who raised Christ from the dead
will give life to your mortal bodies also
through his Spirit that dwells in you.**

Minute for One Great Hour of Sharing

Offering

Offertory "The Lord is My Shepherd" Irvine/Smith
Alison Kane and Beverly Bright, Piano

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Lord's Prayer

The Words of Institution
Communion of the People

Please hold the bread until all are served, so that we might share it as a sign of our unity in Christ. As a sign of individual devotion and commitment, you may drink the cup as you are served.

* Prayer after Communion

GO IN GOD'S NAME

- * Hymn 223 "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"
- * Charge and Benediction
- * Response
- * Postlude

* All who are able shall stand.

The flowers this morning have been given by Lonnie and Bob Lipscomb to the glory of God and in memory of their parents.

Greeting in the narthex this morning are Bill and Grace Farrell and their children.

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Pastor
Director of Educational Ministries
Director of Music
Director of Bell Choir
Organist
Liturgist

William G. Carter
Tina Ide
Susan Kelly
Richard Cochrane
Kay Ten Eyck
Matthew Dobson



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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. He led me all around 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, 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." 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 prophecy, 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.

John 11:17-45

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. 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 Son of God, 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, "Father, 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.