

TCC Takeout

An Order of Service for Worship at Home

*God's Extravagant Welcome:
"No matter who you are or where
you are on life's journey, YOU are
welcome here!"*



**Fifth Sunday of Lent
March 29, 2020**

Announcements

From Ted Thornton

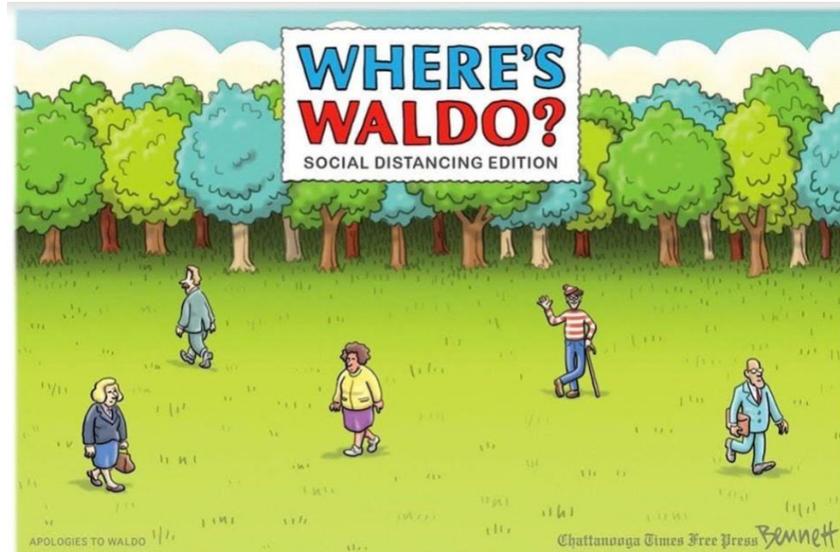
TCC Takeout is a liturgy for these times when we find ourselves without a settled pastor and apart from one another physically. Links will take you to materials appointed for this Sunday in the Lectionary. TCC uses the Revised Common Lectionary as archived at Vanderbilt.edu.

The UCC has created a website of resources during our struggle with coronavirus:
[Click here](#)

Please send me your suggestions, ideas, links to music and texts you find inspiring, and, of course, your joys and concerns. For announcements and Joys and Concerns especially, please get them to me as soon as possible, and no later than Tuesday noon for inclusion in the following Sunday's Order of Service (we need material early in the week in order to get it printed and distributed to members who aren't online). Thanks for your prayers and support.

You will continue to receive announcements in the weekly Trumpet Blast, which will be sent out in a separate emailing. Printed versions will be distributed to members who do not use computers.

Finally, we face the additional challenge of being unable to staff the church office at this time. Until further notice, please call or email Sue McGowan or Martha Morse instead. Their contact information is in the church directory and has also been sent to you in a separate (private) mailing.



From Patter Field: Masks

Some local hospitals are seeking donations for your own extra or homemade face masks. Baystate Franklin needs N95 masks the most. Their drop off site is 74 Crescent St. in Greenfield. They are not accepting homemade masks at this time. Click the link below for announcement and pattern, as shared by Cooley Dickinson Hospital, for any intrepid seamsters/seamstresses:

<https://www.cooleydickinson.org/home/coronavirus-resources/donations/>

From Chris Harris

“With these extra weeks to prepare piano music, I have been working up an arrangement of “Fairest Lord Jesus” that elevates this Silesian folk melody on a truly grand scale. Arranged by John Nordquist, this setting alternates arpeggios and chordal passages to honor the simple verses penned in the 17th century: “Fair are the meadows, fairer still the woodlands, Robed in the blooming garb of spring: Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer, Who makes the woeful heart to sing.” I look forward to sharing it with you all. — Chris Harris”

Call to Worship

Leader: The prophet asks: Can our soul-weary bones live again?

People: O God, you know!

Leader: We ask: Can we dance again after mourning, loss and grief?

People: O God, you know!

Leader: The gift is sure and unmistakable:

People: God's breath poured out as new life for weary souls!

Leader: Let us celebrate the gift of God's new life,

People: And come to worship God in laughter and dancing!

Opening Hymn - "Awake, O Sleeper, Rise From Death"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CR2f2eFw1xc>

[Other Hymns for this Sunday from the Lectionary](#)

Gathering Prayer

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.

Gloria Patri

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost
As it was in the beginning,
Is now and ever shall be,
World without end,
Amen, Amen

Inspiration (Terry Tempest Williams, courtesy Harvard Divinity School)



I pray to the birds.
 I pray to the birds because
 I believe they will carry the messages of my heart upward.
 I pray to them because I believe in their existence,
 the way their songs begin and end each day,
 the invocations and benedictions of earth.
 I pray to the birds because they remind me of what I love
 rather than what I fear.
 And at the end of my prayers,
 they teach me how to listen.

—Terry Tempest Williams

Readings from Scripture:

[Readings for the 5th Sunday in Lent:](#) Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 130; Romans 8:6-11; John 11:1-45

“For the word of God in Scripture, For the Word of God Among Us, For the Word of God Within Us, Thanks Be to God”

Reflection: Ted

All three readings for today are resurrection stories, stories that test what we think we know about the differences between the things that last and those that don't. Ezekiel's vision of the dry bones springing to life is commonly regarded as the earliest reference to an emerging belief in the resurrection of the dead in Judaism as well as in the Bible itself.

Paul's admonition in Romans 8:6 - to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace - seems particularly apt for the times we find ourselves living in and certainly fits with what we see in the reading from John 11.

In John today, we find Jesus in Bethany, a village atop the Mount of Olives and across the Kidron Valley from Jerusalem. When I was doing archaeological work at biblical Ekron, a town allied with Goliath, we'd spend our weekends in Jerusalem. One favorite

activity was to get up before dawn, hike the half mile up the Mount of Olives, and watch the rising sun shining on the walls of Jerusalem's old city across the valley from us.

When Jesus tells his disciples they're going to visit the family of Lazarus in Bethany, Thomas (in John 11:16) is more anxious about their safety rather than the things that transcend flesh, blood, skin, and (we might well add here) disease. He was right about one thing: Jesus had many enemies in the city.

Jesus, of course, is in Jerusalem for the Passover, his last on earth. John locates the story of Lazarus rising from the dead at this point as a foreshadowing of Jesus' resurrection on Easter.

It's yet another reminder to us that nothing can stop new life from rising up and bursting forth, not even a pandemic. Take heart in the birds, buds and blooms of spring and in our renewed hope that with God all things are possible, especially the power of love to conquer fear and despair. Take heart and be patient!

Hymn of Reflection - Out of the Depths, Ruth Duck, #554 NCH #554

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0fk25aZr1fl>

Special Music - "Dry Bones," by James Weldon Johnson, sung by the Delta River Boys

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mVoPG9HtYF8>

"This old spiritual has been handed down to us from a place of profound human suffering. Its roots lie in an ancient refugee crisis and in the more recent struggle for racial equality. The melody was written in the 1920s by the great African-American author and songwriter James Weldon Johnson to give motivational oomph to the Old Testament tale of Ezekiel at a time when spirituals were a powerful binding force among black Americans. The prophet Ezekiel was a young priest when the Babylonians destroyed the temple in his hometown of Jerusalem in about 587BC. In a riverside refugee camp, Ezekiel saw his exiled countrymen losing faith in a God who had not proved powerful enough to protect his chosen people. But Ezekiel had a vision in which a pile of dusty skeletons rose from the ground and "lo, the sinews and the flesh came upon them, and the skin covered them above."

Helen Brown, "The Life of a Song: 'Dem Bones,'" Financial Times, March 18, 2016

<https://www.ft.com/content/6d2c8b58-d1b0-11e5-831d-09f7778e7377>

Joys and Concerns

Marion and Bob Scott have a Joy to share:

"Bob and I have a Joy to report. Our oldest son Trevor, who lives in south central PA and works for Liberty Mutual in MD has been transferred to Liberty Mutual in Danvers, MA. He will be the Claims Manager for the State of Massachusetts. He has been with Liberty for 26 years and has worked first in MA, then DE, and

more recently MD. His wife is Kristin, and they have 4 children ranging from 12 to 1 1/2: Charles, Carter, Connor, and Claire. We are so happy to have this family close. No more 8 hour trips to PA. Hope you all will meet them some day.”

Linda Hescoek asks prayers for Shirley Mills and other residents of Buckley as that nursing home struggles to deal with the outbreak of illness.

Heather Tower wishes to “remind people to reach out to parishioners, and remember those in nursing homes or other institutions.” She urges us to use the new church directory to be in touch with one another.

Patter Field says, “Let us all pray for and help as we can the musicians and artists of all kinds who give so much meaning to our lives during normal times. Many of them live from performance to performance and are now out of work. As this crisis continues many will be struggling to get by.”

Prayer

Gracious God, you who created light so that we might see your grace, open our eyes to see how you are carefully and constantly weaving blessings throughout our life. Put upon our heart to respond to brokenness with healing.

Holy Father, Father of Christ who opened the eyes of the blind, made the lame to walk, and the dead to walk again, strengthen the spirit of Christ living within us, so that through humility, patience, grace, and love, we may find your abundant, kingdom-building life.

Sovereign Lord, God of all by the power of the Holy Spirit, you alone can bring into order our wills and affections: Grant your people grace to love what you command and desire what you promise; that, among the swift and varied changes of the world, our hearts may surely be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Matt Rawle

<http://matrawle.com/2014/04/06/pastoral-prayer-lent-5-a/>

A Prayer for a Time of Coronavirus

Jesus Christ, you traveled through towns and villages “curing every disease and illness.” At your command, the sick were made well. Come to our aid now, in the midst of the global spread of the coronavirus, that we may experience your healing love.

Heal those who are sick with the virus. May they regain their strength and health through quality medical care.

Heal us from our fear, which prevents nations from working together and neighbors from helping one another. Heal us from our pride, which can make us claim invulnerability to a disease that knows no borders.

<https://www.americamagazine.org/faith/2020/03/02/coronavirus-prayer>

Hear O Lord, we pray, our petitions of intercession. We pray for the lonely, for the bereaved, for the sick, for the aged, for those who feel overwhelmed by personal problems. We ask, on their behalf, for the comfort of your presence.

We pray especially for those in need who are on our hearts and minds and lips this morning.

We pray for all who are ill or who suffer from any affliction: physical, mental, or spiritual. Bring healing and comfort to them, their families, and to those who care for them and to others who love them.

We ask these things in the Name of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen

Now praying together as Jesus taught us, we say,

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 sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power and the glory forever.
Amen.

Prayer Response

NCH 769 - *Hear Our Prayer, O God* -- [Audio version](#)

Hear Our Prayer, O God,
Hear our prayer, O God,
Incline Thine ear to us,
And Grant us your peace.

Closing Hymn - ["I, the Lord of Sea and Sky" \("Here I am Lord"\)](#), [Chalice Hymnal #452](#), National Youth Choir of Scotland (suggested by Ed Foster)

Pastoral Benediction

Come out! Jesus commands,
And calls us from the tombs of our existence
into the brightness of a new day.
Come out! Jesus cries,
And unbinds us from the chains of our past.
Come out! Jesus calls,
And entices us into a world filled with grace and possibility.
So:
Go out!
Into a world that needs our life, our breath, our spirit!
Go out!
Into a world that needs the Spirit of God,
carried on our lips and in our loving arms.
Go out!
Into the world to live as God's resurrected people!
Go out: and go on the breath of God's holy wind!

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