

Call to Stewardship

Without the breath of God, we are dry bones, and without the Word of God, we are dust. With gratitude, let us offer our lives to the Lord of all life.

*Offertory Prayer

Holy God, giver of life, we thank you for raising us up and joining us together as one people, your people, flesh and bone in the body of Christ. As you have delivered us from death, use our lives to proclaim the good news of new life in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

[*Congregational Response Hymn 606 Old Hundredth Doxology](#)

**Praise God from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

Bearing and Following the Word into the World

[*Hymn 634 To God Be The Glory](#)
["To God Be The Glory"](#)

*Charge and Benediction

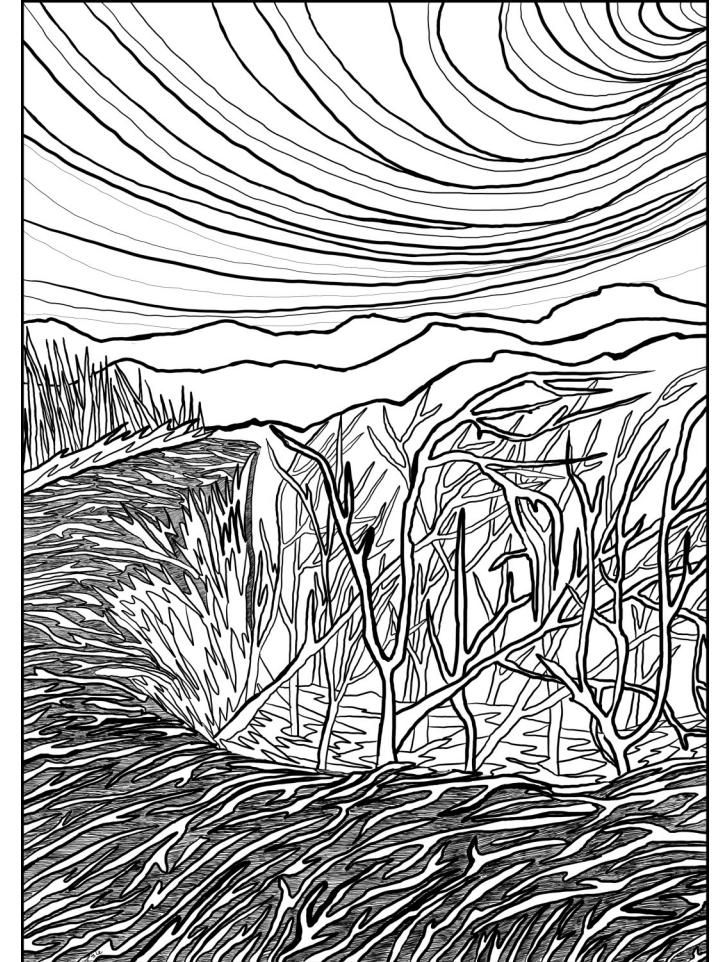
Arise dry bones and live! May the Lord Jesus Christ, who is the resurrection and the life, bless and keep you in this life and the life to come. Amen.

*Peace of Christ

The peace of Christ be with you
And also with you

Announcements:

- The church office will continue to be open limited hours. Those hours will be announced each Monday in the Monday morning announcement video.
- Please contact your pastors if you have any immediate needs.
- Follow us on Facebook or Instagram for more updates about what is happening in the church.



 **Grace First**
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Together – Worshipping, Witnessing, Working

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The Reverend Ashley Drake Mertz, Pastor
The Reverend David A. Slyter, Associate Pastor
Marialice Parish, M.M., Organist and Director of Music

THE ORDER OF MORNING WORSHIP
March 29, 2020 10:40 A.M.

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Gathering Around the Word

Welcome

Call to Worship (Responsive)

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.

Prayer of Invocation

God of rejuvenation, we gather here to be restored by your powerful spirit. You gather us into community. You allow us to see the impossible become possible. The implausible become plausible. There is no end to your power and you promises to those who believe. Feed us with your life-giving word today. Amen.

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

Call to Confession

To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. Trusting in the Spirit of God, let us boldly confess our sin corporately and then in our own moment of silence...let us pray...

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

O Lord, if you held our sin against us, who could live, who could stand? We seem to have more faith in death than hope in the promise of life. We seek peace through war and find security in

weapons. We abandon the hungry, sick, and dying, and pursue wealth by making others poor. And even so, you love us; still there is forgiveness with you! therefore we worship you; for you alone, O Lord, can save us from death and redeem us from our sin. Amen.

Silent Confession...

Assurance of Forgiveness

O dry bones, hear the Word of the Lord! If Jesus Christ dwells in you, the Spirit of God will be your life and the grace of God will be your righteousness. And if the Holy Spirit dwells in you, then God, who raised Jesus from the dead, will also give life to your mortal bodies. Friends, this is the good news of the gospel; in Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Amen.

*Congregational Response Hymn 63 vs.1 & 2 Azmon
"The Lord Is God"

The Lord is God, the Lord alone!
Give honor, thanks, and praise to God,
the maker of all things and giver of our days.
With all your heart, with all your soul,
with all your mind and might, O people,
love the Lord your God, the source of truth and light.

Proclaiming the Word

Prayer for Illumination

O Lord, Great I am, you are resurrection and life. As we worship you this day show us who we are: bearers of good news, messengers of resurrection, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

First Reading

Psalm 130

The Word of God for the People of God
Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

Ezekiel 37:1-14

Sermon

The Rev. Ashley Drake Mertz

Responding to the Word

*Hymn 286 Trentham
"Breathe on Me, Breath of God"

*Affirmation of Faith (Responsive)

We believe in a wilderness God—

Who breathed life into dust, turned seeds into flowers, and flooded the sky with stars.

We believe in a wilderness God—

Who went hungry in the desert, walked barefoot on the water, and taught from the mountainside.

We believe in a wilderness God—

Whose love could be described as nothing short of wild.

So with confidence and hope, we long to follow our wilderness God who walks with people on their darkest nights,

Who sings hope into places of grief, isolation, and suffering, and who exists in the form of untamed joy, endless love, and impossible hope. Step by step, may it be so. Amen.

Prayer for the People and 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.