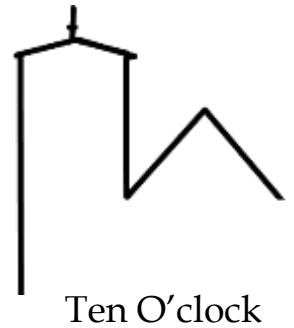




# WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1420 West Moss Avenue  
Peoria, Illinois 61606



## THE FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

26 March 2023

Ten O'clock

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

### GATHERING IN THE PRESENCE OF THE RISEN CHRIST

**THE PREPARATION**

**Two Settings of "O Sacred Head"**

*Johannes Brahms*

**WELCOME AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH FAMILY**

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

**Rev. Denise Clark-Jones**

**One:** *The word has come for us from God:*

**All:** **who promises to shelter us under the wings of hope and grace.**

**One:** *The word has come to us from Jesus:*

**All:** **who encourages us to remember the good news we have received.**

**One:** *The word flows to us from the Spirit:*

**All:** **who reminds us to place our hope and trust in God.**

**\*THE HYMN 87**

**The Glory of These Forty Days**

*Erhalt uns, Herr*

**1. The glory of these forty days  
We celebrate with songs of praise  
For Christ by whom all things were made  
Himself has fasted and has prayed.**

**2. Alone and fasting Moses saw,  
The loving God who gave the law,  
And to Elijah fasting, came  
The steeds and chariots of flame.**

**3. So Daniel trained his mystic sight,  
Delivered from the lion's might;  
And John, the Bridegroom's friend, became  
The heralds of Messiah's name.**

**4. Then grant that we like them be true,  
Consumed in fast and prayer with you;  
Our spirits strengthen with your grace,  
And give us joy to see your face.**

**Text: Gregory the Great, (540-604)  
Music: Klug's Geistliche Lieder, 1543**

**\*CALL TO CONFESSION**

**\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (*praying together*)

SPIRIT OF LIFE, we confess that we do not live into the promise of life. We are focused on success, on having more, on being satisfied and comfortable. We have turned away from the promise of life in You to pursue worldly pleasures that will eventually leave us empty. Only You can fulfill us, and by serving You in loving others and caring for the needs of others, we find Your Spirit of life in us. Forgive us for chasing empty promises and wealthy dreams, and turn us back to Your ways. In the name of Christ, who teaches us, guides us, and leads us into life, we pray.

**\*TIME OF SILENCE AND PERSONAL CONFESSION**

**\*KYRIE**



**\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

**\*LENTEN RESPONSE** (*singing together*)

*Westminster Abbey*

To this temple where we call thee, Come O Lord of Hosts today,  
With thy wonted loving kindness, Hear thy servants as they pray,  
And thy fullest benediction, Shed within these walls away.

## HEARING THE WORD

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**OLD TESTAMENT:** 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. <sup>2</sup> He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. <sup>3</sup> He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord God, you know." <sup>4</sup> Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. <sup>5</sup> Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. <sup>6</sup> 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."

<sup>7</sup> 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. <sup>8</sup> 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. <sup>9</sup> 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." <sup>10</sup> I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

<sup>11</sup> 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.' <sup>12</sup> 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. <sup>13</sup> And you shall know that I am the Lord when I open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people. <sup>14</sup> 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.*

**\*THE PSALTER**

Psalm 130

*Quebec*

1. Out of the depths I call to you,  
Lord, hear my voice and heed my prayer;  
Look with compassion on my plea,  
Weigh my petition, Lord, with care.

2. For if you note each sinful deed,  
Lord, who could stand when you appeared?  
But with you is forgiveness found  
And therefore, Lord, you shall be feared.

3. More certainly than watchmen wait  
To see the daylight first appear  
Does my soul wait upon the Lord  
I wait in trust and holy fear.

4. O Israel, wait upon the Lord;  
Mercy is always found with him,  
And freedom, too, abounds in God  
Who frees his people from their sin.

*Text: A New Metrical Psalter, Christopher L. Webber*

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*Music: Henry Baker, 1854*

**EPISTLE: Romans 8:6-11**

To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit<sup>[a]</sup> is life and peace. <sup>7</sup> For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law – indeed, it cannot, <sup>8</sup> and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. <sup>9</sup> But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit,<sup>[b]</sup> since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. <sup>10</sup> But if Christ is in you, then the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit<sup>[c]</sup> is life because of righteousness. <sup>11</sup> If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus<sup>[d]</sup> from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through<sup>[e]</sup> his Spirit that dwells in you.

**GOSPEL: John 11:1-45**

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. <sup>2</sup> Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. <sup>3</sup> So the sisters sent a message to Jesus "Lord, he whom you love is ill." <sup>4</sup> But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather, it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." <sup>5</sup> Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, <sup>6</sup> after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

<sup>7</sup> Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." <sup>8</sup> The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" <sup>9</sup> Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble because they see the light of this world. <sup>10</sup> But those who walk at night stumble because the light is not in them." <sup>11</sup> After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." <sup>12</sup> The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." <sup>13</sup> Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. <sup>14</sup> Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. <sup>15</sup> For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." <sup>16</sup> Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

<sup>17</sup> When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. <sup>18</sup> Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, <sup>19</sup> and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. <sup>20</sup> When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. <sup>21</sup> Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. <sup>22</sup> But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." <sup>23</sup> Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." <sup>24</sup> Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." <sup>25</sup> Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, <sup>26</sup> and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" <sup>27</sup> She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

<sup>28</sup> 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." <sup>29</sup> And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. <sup>30</sup> Now Jesus had not yet come to the village but was still at the place where Martha had met him. <sup>31</sup> 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. <sup>32</sup> 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.”<sup>33</sup> When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved.<sup>34</sup> He said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to him, “Lord, come and see.”<sup>35</sup> Jesus began to weep.<sup>36</sup> So the Jews said, “See how he loved him!”<sup>37</sup> But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?”

<sup>38</sup> Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it.<sup>39</sup> 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.”<sup>40</sup> Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?”<sup>41</sup> So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, “Father, I thank you for having heard me.<sup>42</sup> I knew that you *Wood* that they may believe that you sent me.”<sup>43</sup> When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!”<sup>44</sup> 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.”

<sup>45</sup> Many of the Jews, therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did believed in him.

*The Word of the Lord ...* Thanks be to God.

SERMON

The Rev. Denise Clark-Jones

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

\*HYMN 370

Just as I Am, Without One Plea

*Woodworth*

1. Just as I am, without one plea  
But that thy blood was shed for me,  
And that thou biddest me come to thee,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

2. Just as I am, though tossed about  
With many a conflict, many a doubt,  
Fightings and fears within, without,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

3. Just as I am, thou wilt receive,  
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve,  
Because thy promise I believe,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

4. Just as I am thy love unknown  
Has broken every barrier down,  
Now to be thine, yea, thine alone,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

Text: Charlotte Elliott, 1834  
Music: William Batchelder Bradburg, 1849

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (*Affirming together*)

*from Romans 8*

**We believe there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus; for we know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to God's purpose. We are convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

**\*PASSING OF THE PEACE**

*The peace of Christ be with you ...* **And also with you**

**THE GIFT OF MUSIC**

**Blessed Is He  
The Westminster Choir  
Kate Kortemeier, mezzo-soprano**

*Michael Head*

Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven. Blessed is he whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man unto whom the Lord imputeth not iniquity. Blessed is the man in whose spirit there is no guile. I acknowledge my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid I will confess my transgression unto the Lord, Thou wilt forgive the iniquity of my sin. Thou art my hiding place, Thou wilt preserve me from evil, Thou shalt compass me about with songs of deliverance. O be glad in the Lord, and rejoice ye righteous. Be glad in the Lord, and sing for joy, all ye upright in heart. Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven. Blessed is he whose sin in covered. Blessed is the man unto whom the Lord imputeth not iniquity. Blessed is the man in whose spirit there is no guile.

**PRAYERS AND INTERCESSIONS**

*In your mercy ...* **Lord hear our prayer**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER** [*praying together*]

**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.**

# BEARING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

\*HYMN 326

Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart

*Morecambe*

1. Spirit of God, descend upon my heart  
Wean it from earth, through all its pulses move  
Stoop to my weakness, mighty as thou art,  
And make me love thee as I ought to love.

2. Hast thou not bid us love thee, God and King  
All, all thine own, soul, heart, and strength and mind?  
I see thy cross, there teach my heart to cling,  
O let me seek thee, and O let me find.

3. Teach me to feel that thou art always nigh  
Teach me the struggles of the soul to bear  
To check the rising doubt, the rebel sigh,  
Teach me the patience of unanswered prayer.

4. Teach me to love thee as thine angels love,  
One holy passion filling all my frame;  
The baptism of the heaven-descended dove,  
My heart an altar, and thy love the flame.

Text: George Croly, 1854

Music: Frederick Cook Atkinson, 1870

\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

\*CHORAL BENEDICTION

A Gaelic Blessing

*John Rutter*

Deep peace of the running wave to you Deep peace of the flowing air to you Deep peace of  
the quiet earth to you Deep peace of the shining stars to you Deep peace of the gentle night  
to you Moon and stars pour their healing light on you Deep peace of Christ the light of the  
world to you, Deep peace of Christ to you.

\*POSTLUDE

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OPEN HANDS, OPEN HEARTS, OPEN MINDS



