



Worship Celebration

Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 29, 2020 + 11 AM

Welcome to The United Methodist Church of Berea!

As followers of Jesus Christ, who reveals a God whose love knows no boundaries, we are committed to welcoming and affirming every person as a beloved child of God. Every person—of every sexual orientation, gender identity, ethnicity, age, economic status, health, ability, or any other identifying label—is welcome to participate fully in our ministries and life together as church. We hope The UMC of Berea will become a home for you, your family, and your friends as together, we make and mature disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Join us in worship Sunday mornings at 11 AM on Facebook Live (<https://www.facebook.com/UMCBERE/>)
or watch the service later at www.umcb.org/sermons.

We Gather as God's Children

In preparation for worship, you are invited to light a candle as a reminder of God's presence.

Hymn

This Is a Day of New Beginnings (vv. 1-4)

UMH 383

Words of Welcome

Call to Worship—Psalm 130

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord! Lord, hear my voice!

Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

If you, Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand?

But there is forgiveness with you, that you may be worshiped.

I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, in the Lord's word I hope;

my soul waits for the Lord

more than those who watch for the morning,

more than those who watch for the morning.

O people of God, hope in the Lord!

For with the Lord there is steadfast love, with the Lord is abundant redemption.

And the Lord will redeem us from all iniquities.

Prayer of Confession and Words of Assurance

**God of promise and hope, we come to you feeling dried up,
like a valley filled with dry bones.**

Share your visions of new life with us, that we might have hope for our future.

Bring us up from the grave, that we might live as people of promise,

Breathe your Spirit within us, that we might live.

Lord of life, we come to you nearly consumed by worry and fear.

When we blame you for not being here in our need, forgive us.

When we turn away from you in moments of loss,

guide us back to your faithful arms.

We long to put our faith in your promised healing.

We yearn to truly believe that you are the resurrection and the life.

**Teach us once more, Merciful One, that you weep when we weep
and rejoice as we find our way back home.** (silent prayers of confession)

May God forgive us, free us, and lead us more fully into life.

In the name of Jesus, through the power of the Holy Spirit, we are forgiven!

Thanks be to God! Amen.

We Grow in God's Word

Leader: With disciples of every time and place, let us listen for the word of God among us.

People: Our ears and hearts are open.

First Lesson—Ezekiel 37:1-14 (CEB)

¹The LORD's power overcame me, and while I was in the LORD's spirit, he led me out and set me down in the middle of a certain valley. It was full of bones. ²He led me through them all around, and I saw that there were a great many of them on the valley floor, and they were very dry.

³He asked me, "Human one, can these bones live again?"

I said, "LORD God, only you know."

⁴He said to me, "Prophecy over these bones, and say to them, Dry bones, hear the LORD's word! ⁵The LORD God proclaims to these bones: I am about to put breath in you, and you will live again. ⁶I will put sinews on you, place flesh on you, and cover you with skin. When I put breath in you, and you come to life, you will know that I am the LORD."

⁷I prophesied just as I was commanded. There was a great noise as I was prophesying, then a great quaking, and the bones came together, bone by bone. ⁸When I looked, suddenly there were sinews on them. The flesh appeared, and then they were covered over with skin. But there was still no breath in them.

⁹He said to me, "Prophecy to the breath; prophecy, human one! Say to the breath, The LORD God proclaims: Come from the four winds, breath! Breathe into these dead bodies and let them live."

¹⁰I prophesied just as he commanded me. When the breath entered them, they came to life and stood on their feet, an extraordinarily large company.

¹¹He said to me, "Human one, these bones are the entire house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope has perished. We are completely finished.' ¹²So now, prophecy and say to them, The LORD God proclaims: I'm opening your graves! I will raise you up from your graves, my people, and I will bring you to Israel's fertile land. ¹³You will know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves and raise you up from your graves, my people. ¹⁴I will put my breath^[a] in you, and you will live. I will plant you on your fertile land, and you will know that I am the LORD. I've spoken, and I will do it. This is what the LORD says."

Leader: The word of God for the people of God. **People: Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Lesson—John 11:17-44 (CEB)

¹⁷When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. ¹⁸Bethany was a little less than two miles from Jerusalem. ¹⁹Many Jews had come to comfort Martha and Mary after their brother's death. ²⁰When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went to meet him, while Mary remained in the house. ²¹Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother wouldn't have died. ²²Even now I know that whatever you ask God, God will give you."

²³Jesus told her, "Your brother will rise again."

²⁴Martha replied, "I know that he will rise in the resurrection on the last day."

²⁵Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me will live, even though they die. ²⁶Everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

²⁷She replied, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Christ, God's Son, the one who is coming into the world."

²⁸After she said this, she went and spoke privately to her sister Mary, "The teacher is here and he's calling for you." ²⁹When Mary heard this, she got up quickly and went to Jesus. ³⁰He hadn't entered the village but was still in the place where Martha had met him. ³¹When the Jews who were comforting Mary in the house saw her get up quickly and leave, they followed her. They assumed she was going to mourn at the tomb.

³²When Mary arrived where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother wouldn't have died."

³³When Jesus saw her crying and the Jews who had come with her crying also, he was deeply disturbed and troubled. ³⁴He asked, "Where have you laid him?"

They replied, "Lord, come and see."

³⁵Jesus began to cry. ³⁶The Jews said, "See how much he loved him!" ³⁷But some of them said, "He healed the eyes of the man born blind. Couldn't he have kept Lazarus from dying?"

³⁸Jesus was deeply disturbed again when he came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone covered the entrance. ³⁹Jesus said, "Remove the stone."

Martha, the sister of the dead man, said, "Lord, the smell will be awful! He's been dead four days."

⁴⁰Jesus replied, "Didn't I tell you that if you believe, you will see God's glory?" ⁴¹So they removed the stone. Jesus looked up and said, "Father, thank you for hearing me. ⁴²I know you always hear me. I say this for the benefit of the crowd standing here so that they will believe that you sent me." ⁴³Having said this, Jesus shouted with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" ⁴⁴The dead man came out, his feet bound and his hands tied, and his face covered with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Untie him and let him go."

Children's Message

Sermon

Hymn

Spirit of the Living God

UMH 393

Prayers of the People/The Lord's Prayer

Moment for Mission

Tithes and Offerings

Many of us already give financially to support the mission and ministries of our congregation through online giving (www.umcb.org/donate) or by mailing a check to the office. Thank you! If you do not already do so, during this time when we will not be worshiping together in person, please consider giving through one of these other methods. Your continued generosity plays a crucial role in ensuring that we can maintain our financial commitments to mission and ministry during this uncertain season.

Hymn

Lord of the Dance

UMH 261

We Go Out to Serve in God's Name

Benediction

Go with the blessings of the One who forgives us.

Go with the blessings of the One who saves and heals us.

Go in communion with the One who is ever with us.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

***Our service of worship is ended.
Our worship through service now begins.***

Morning Prayer

O God, I know that you are the Lord,
for you have given me life
and caused me to rise this day.
Put your Spirit within me,
and let my words and actions
help others to know that you are
my Lord and my God. Amen.

Evening Prayer

My soul waits for you, O Lord,
more than those who watch for the morning.
Help me to sleep this night in peace,
trusting that you will awaken me;
through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Weekly Seeds

You are invited to use these resources for further reflection during the week. Gather together a few friends from your neighborhood, workplace, or any other community of which you already belong, and walk together through these prayers, questions, and preparations for next Sunday's worship services.

Questions for reflection and conversation:

1. The prophet Ezekiel writes to a community in exile, devastated by disconnection from their places and people of belonging. Amid this desolation, God asks Ezekiel if the dry bones can live and then revitalizes the bones through Ezekiel's words. In what areas of life are you experiencing disconnection? How might God be inviting you to speak words of life to those around you?
2. After finally arriving at the tomb, Jesus calls Lazarus to come out and to be unbound. In what places might your life need to be "unbound"? What tombs need to be left behind?

Next Sunday's Scripture Lessons

April 5, 2020 - Palm/Passion Sunday

Palm Readings: *Matthew 21.1-11; Psalm 118.1-2, 19-29*

Passion Readings: *Isaiah 50.4-9a; Psalm 31.9-16; Philippians 2.5-11; Matthew 26.14-27.66*

Online and Call-in Resources for Worship and Small-Group Community

Sunday Morning Worship

Sundays at 11 AM

The full worship service from this past Sunday, March 22 is available on our website at www.umcb.org/sermons or on our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/UMCBEREA.

Please join us this coming Sunday, March 29 at 11 AM on our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/UMCBEREA for a live broadcast of our worship service for the Fifth Sunday in Lent.

Small Groups

Wednesdays at 7 PM, Sundays at 10 AM

Stay connected in small group community on Wednesday evening and Sunday mornings. Three questions will guide our conversations and prayer:

- What are you grateful for?
- What are you anxious about?
- What are you learning?

Wednesdays:

Online (audio and video):

<https://zoom.us/j/390566723>

By phone (audio only): Dial 888-788-0099 and enter Meeting ID 390 566 723

Sundays:

Online (audio and video):

<https://zoom.us/j/487816871>

By phone (audio only): Dial 888-788-0099 and enter Meeting ID 487 816 871

Children's Play Date

Thursday, March 26, 4 AM

Join Pastor Carrie on Thursday at 4 pm for a virtual play date on Zoom! Bring some dress-up things nearby and get ready for a fun time!

Online (audio and video):

<https://zoom.us/j/939316652>

By phone (audio only): Dial 888-788-0099 and enter Meeting ID 939 316 652

Morning Prayer

Monday – Friday, 9 AM (beginning March 26)

You are invited to join Pastor Nathan for 15 minutes of praise, prayer, and scripture, Monday – Friday mornings at 9 AM.

Online (audio and video):

<https://zoom.us/j/518014483>

By phone (audio only): Dial 888-788-0099 and enter Meeting ID 518 014 483

Food Collection

Thursday, April 2, 5-8 PM, UMCB Parking Lot

On Thursday, April 2, we will collect non-perishable food items to help re-stock our local food pantries. Dave LeBrun will be in our church parking lot from 5 to 8 PM, maintaining safe social distance but also receiving your donations. When you venture out to purchase groceries or supplies, please prayerfully consider purchasing a few extra items to donate on April 2 in support of our neighbors in need of food. Thank you for your generosity!