

# WORSHIP

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Front Street United Methodist Church

5th Sunday of Lent

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## Opening Prayer

Holy God, author of all life, you call us out of our dark places, offering us the grace of new life. When we see nothing but hopelessness, you surprise us with the breath of your Spirit. Call us out of our complacency and routines, set us free from our self-imposed bonds, and fill us with your spirit of life, compassion, and peace. In the name of Jesus, your anointed one, we pray. Amen.

## Psalter

Psalms 130

From the depths I called You, LORD.

Master, hear my voice.

May Your ears listen close to the voice of my plea.

Were you, O LORD, to watch for wrongs,

Master, who could endure?

For forgiveness is Yours,

so that you may be feared.

I hoped for the LORD,

my being hoped, and for His word I waited.

My being waits for the Master —

more than the dawn-watchers watch for the dawn.

Wait, O Israel, for the LORD,

for with the LORD is steadfast kindness,

and great redemption is with Him.

And He will redeem Israel

from all its wrongdoings.

The Word, Read & Proclaimed

John 11:1–4, 17–44

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." 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."

...

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."

Offering & Silent Meditation

## Lenten Litany

God, this is who we hold up high,  
this is who we look to:

To Christ who exceeded every expectation,  
defied every convention,  
fulfilled every prophecy,  
revealed every intention.

Christ, who irritated the rule-makers,  
upstaged the Sabbath-breakers,  
outplayed the money-schemers,  
inspired the justice-bringers.

Christ, who blessed the merciful,  
praised the peacemakers,  
empowered the healers,  
embraced the outsiders.

Christ, who forgave the unforgivable,  
loved the unlovable,  
redeemed the unredeemable,  
touched the untouchable.

Christ, who endured suffering,  
faced down death,  
emptied the grave,  
raised up life.

Christ, light in darkness,  
peace in storm,  
comfort in trouble,  
strength in weakness.

Christ, who was, and is, and is to come,  
who walked, preached, healed,  
who was crucified, died, and buried.  
Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.  
Amen.

## Prayers for Others & The Lord's Prayer

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

(Silence)

Lord, have mercy.

Guide the people of this land, and all of the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good.

(Silence)

Lord, have mercy.

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

(Silence)

Lord, have mercy.

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us.

(Silence)

Lord, have mercy.

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation.

(Silence)

Lord, have mercy.

We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

(Silence)

Lord, have mercy.

And now with confidence as children of God, let us pray the prayer that Jesus taught us...

## Benediction

“The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you,” and grant you peace. Amen.

2 Corinthians 13:13