

St.Paul's United Church of Christ
Sunday, March 26, 2023
Fifth Sunday in Lent
Rev Diane Goulson

Prelude
Ringing of the Bell

***Call to Worship** *Psalm 130*

We are here to worship our God.

We are tired, worn and our bones are dried up.

We trust in God's mercy..

We are spent, without breath, seeking life.

The Spirit of God, the Breath of God is here to give us life.

Praise to our God who does not leave us where we are.

***Hymn** *"Great is Your Faithfulness"* # 423 TNCH

***Confession and Forgiveness**

Sing refrain: "O Lord, Hear My Prayer" #751 ELW

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: when I call, answer me.

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: come and listen to me.

Prayer of Confession 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!

*Sing refrain: O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: when I call, answer me.
O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: come and listen to me.*

If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with you, so that you may be revered.

*Sing refrain: O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: when I call, answer me.
O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: come and listen to me.*

"I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in his 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.

*Sing refrain: O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: when I call, answer me.
O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: come and listen to me.*

**"O Israel, hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is steadfast love, and with him is great power to redeem. It is he who will redeem Israel from all its iniquities."
It is he who redeems me.**

*Sing refrain: O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: when I call, answer me.
O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: come and listen to me.*

Silent Confession

***Words of Assurance** *Romans 3: 22 - 24*

. . . ²²the righteousness of God is disclosed through the faith of Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, ²³ since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; ²⁴ they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus. . .” Through the gift of faith, your sins have been forgiven. +

**The 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.

Welcome & Announcements

Children’s Sermon

Scripture Readings

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. ²He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. ³He said to me, “Mortal, can these bones live?” I answered, “O Lord GOD, you know.”

⁴Then he said to me, “Prophesy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. ⁵Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. ⁶I 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.” ⁷So 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. ⁸I 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.

⁹Then he said to me, “Prophesy 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.” ¹⁰I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

¹¹Then 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.’ ¹²Therefore 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. ¹³And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. ¹⁴I 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.

Sermon

“God Doesn’t Leave Us Where We Are”

Hymn

“If You But Trust in God to Guide You”

410 TNCH

Pastoral Prayer -Silent Prayer-The Lord's Prayer

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**

Cares Chorus

***I cast all my cares upon You, I lay all of my burdens down at Your feet.
And any time I don't know what to do, I will cast all my cares upon You.***

Offering of our Gifts

Invitation

Having received new life through the generosity of God and the hope Christ brings,
let us give thankfully and abundantly that we may be called God's generous people.

**Doxology*

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise God all creatures here below,
Praise God above ye heavenly hosts,
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen**

Prayer of Dedication

O God, because we have been given so much life and redeemed through Christ,
Because we are loved so much, give us the strength to love more,
Because we are not left without hope or the promise of grace,
We give ourselves and our gifts with grateful hearts. Amen

**Hymn*

"God, Speak to Me That I May Speak"

531 TNCH

**Benediction*

**Postlude*