



*An Open & Affirming, A2A-Accessible to All
Congregation of the United Church of Christ*

22 MARCH 2026 – 10:30 AM
FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

***indicates the congregation is invited to stand.
Please feel free to remain seated if you prefer.**

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- PRELUDE *Águas de março* (Waters of March) Antônio Carlos Jobim
JAZZ ON HIGH • Aidan Santa Cruz, piano & vocals;
Chris Charman, bass; Zack Olsen, drums; Gabriella Luz, guest vocalist
- WELCOME Joliene Wade Gatlin
- *GATHERING SONG 1) in unison 2) repeated as a round Navajo Traditional
**Now I walk in beauty.
Beauty is before me.
Beauty is behind me, above and below me.**
- *CALL TO WORSHIP Mira Haslam, liturgist
- One: God in the bones of our ancestors,
All: Speak to us from the earth, that we may honor the past.
- One: God in the bones of our children,
All: Speak to us from their smiles, that we may honor joy and curiosity.
- One: God in our bones,
All: Speak to us through our living, that we may know what gives life to our communities.
- One: God of what was, what is, and what can be,
All: Help us to know the difference, and to live into our moment fully.
- *HYMN 436 [hymn sheet] *God of Grace and God of Glory* (stzs 1-3) CWM RHONDDA
- WORD MADE PLAIN Children are invited to gather in front the Rev. Beverly Brook
- LENTEN PRAYERS OF CONFESSION AND RENEWAL
- One: Where we have seen pain without being moved, smothered your love with solemn pride, resigned to injustice and forsaken righteousness...
- All: Lord, have mercy.**
- One: Where we have spoken of love more than we have shared it, claimed faith without the discipline of living by your word, pointed the finger of blame while ignoring our own sin...
- All: Christ, have mercy.**
- One: For false comforts in the face of suffering, for excuses in the face of misery...
- All: Lord, have mercy, Christ, have mercy, Lord, have mercy upon us.**
- *ASSURANCE
- May the peace of God surround you... **Like the trees towering in the forest!**
May the peace of God warm you all over... **Like the sun shining in the sky!**
May the peace of God rise and roll over you... **Like the waves rolling in the sea!**
May the peace of God fill you... **Like the wind stirring in your soul!**
May the peace of God surround you... [singing] **Amen, amen, amen, amen, amen...** [repeating]

*GREETING OF PEACE

SCRIPTURE

Ezekiel 37:1-14

Mira Haslam

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. He led me all round them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, 'Mortal, can these bones live?' I answered, 'O Lord God, you know.' Then he said to me, 'Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. 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.'

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. 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. 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.' I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

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." 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. And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. 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.'

ANTHEM

Break Our Hearts Again

Paul Demer

SERMON

Can these bones live?

Joliene Gatlin

MEDITATION

Songs & Prayers from Taizé

**Nothing can trouble, nothing can frighten. Those who seek God shall never go wanting.
Nothing can trouble, nothing can frighten. God alone fills us.**

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

...concluding with the *A Prayer in the Spirit of Jesus*

**Earth-Maker, Life-Giver, Pain-Bearer, Source of all that is and all that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all, Loving God in whom is Heaven:**

May the hallowing of your name echo through the universe.

May your Heavenly will be done by all creatures great and small.

And may your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth.

With the bread we need this day, feed us. For the hurt we inflict on one another, forgive us.

Through times of temptation, strengthen us. From trials too great to endure, spare us.

From the grip of all that is evil, free us. For you reign in the glory of the power that is Love.

OFFERTORY

Warm Valley



Duke Ellington

*COVENANT

We covenant with God and with each other:

to walk together in all God's ways as the Holy is revealed to us;

to give ourselves freely and without reserve to Jesus' ministry in this church;

to celebrate through worship God's amazing gifts of unity and diversity;

to take up Christ's mission around the world, striving for justice and peace;

to care for the earth and all her creatures, reconciling ourselves to them in love;

for God gives immeasurable grace into all life and every life.

*HYMN 202 [hymn sheet]

O God, How We Have Wandered

PASSION CHORALE

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Amen

Beyoncé Knowles. *et al*

God of Grace and God of Glory

436

Harry Emerson Fosdick, 1930; alt.

1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on your peo - ple
 2 From the e - vils that sur - round us and as - sail the
 3 Cure your chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to

pour your power; crown your an - cient church - 's sto - ry;
 Sav - ior's ways, from the fears that long have bound us—
 your con - trol. Shame our reck - less, self - ish glad - ness,

bring its bud to glo - rious flower. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 free our hearts for faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,

for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.
 for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.
 make our bro - ken spir - its whole, make our bro - ken spir - its whole.

Harry Emerson Fosdick, a prophetic preacher and writer, taught at Union Theological Seminary from 1915 to 1946. This hymn was written for the opening service and dedication of Riverside Church, New York City, which he served for twenty years.

Tune: CWM RHONDDA 8.7.8.7.8.7.7.
 John Hughes, c. 1907

O God, How We Have Wandered

202

Kevin Nichols, 1980; alt.

Luke 15:11-32; 2 Cor. 5:16-20

1 O God, how we have wan - dered and hid - den from your face;
 2 And now at length dis - cern - ing the e - vil that we do,
 3 O God of all the liv - ing, both ban - ished and re - stored,

In fool - ish - ness have squan - dered your leg - a - cy of grace.
 By faith we are re - turn - ing with hope and trust in you.
 Com - pas - sion - ate, for - giv - ing, our peace and hope as - sured.

But how, in ex - ile dwell - ing, we turn with fear and shame,
 In haste you come to meet us, and home re - joic - ing bring,
 Grant now that our trans - gress - ing, our faith - less - ness may cease.

As dis - tant but com - pell - ing, you call us each by name.
 In glad - ness there to greet us with calf and robe and ring.
 Stretch out your hand in bless - ing, in par - don, and in peace.

The tune for this contemporary text appears five times in J. S. Bach's St. Matthew Passion, and first appeared as a hymn setting in the early 1800s. It has an ecumenical history reaching back many centuries. Originally it was a German love song.

Tune: PASSION CHORALE 7.6.7.6.D.
 (HERZLICH TUT MICH VERLANGEN)
 Melody by Hans Leo Hassler, 1601
 Harm. J. S. Bach, 1729
 For another harmonization, see 179