



THE BAR HARBOR CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

**United Church of Christ
29 Mount Desert Street
Bar Harbor, Maine 04609**

March 26, 2023

10:00 am

Fifth Sunday in Lent

PRELUDE

SILENT REFLECTION *(by MaMuse)*

We shall be known by the company we keep
by the ones who circle round to tend these fires
We shall be known by the ones who sow and reap
the seeds of change alive from deep within the earth

It is time now.

It is time now that we thrive.

It is time we lead ourselves into the well.

It is time now, and what a time to be alive.

In this great turning we shall learn to lead in love.

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WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Special Thanks to our worship assistants today: Ann Lee, Liturgist; Chloe Bolt, Kathe Simons, Al Simons, Steve Grubb, Cristy Benson and Jim Brown, worship technicians.

BHCC This Week

Sunday March 26 th	9am BHCC Choir 10am Worship Service 11:15am Coffee Fellowship 11:15am BHCC Prayer & Worship TLC+ team meeting
Wednesday March 29 th	6pm BHCC Lenten Supper: <i>Forgiveness</i>
Thursday March 30 th	5pm BHCC Choir 6pm Single Parents' Support Group @ BHCC 8:30pm Faith & Fiction (Zoom: see Kiah for link)
Friday March 31 st	11am Bible Study (in-person and on Zoom) 5:30pm Friday Night Grace @ BHCC - Easter edition
Saturday April 1 st	1pm Ukrainian Easter Egg decoration – spaces limited - sign up ASAP by emailing cristymbenson@gmail.com
Sunday April 2 nd Palm Sunday Communion & Masks 50 year members' Sunday	9am BHCC Choir 10am Worship Service 11:15am Coffee Fellowship 11:20am BHCC Connections
Thursday, April 6 th Maundy Thursday	Maundy Thursday service, 5:30pm @ Somesville Union Meeting House
Friday, April 7 th Good Friday	Good Friday service, 5:30pm @ Seaside UCC in Northeast Harbor
Sunday, April 9 th EASTER SUNDAY	5:45am Easter Sunrise service @ Schooner Head Overlook, followed by breakfast at BHCC 10am Easter Celebration Worship Service at BHCC

The flowers today are given by Beth Paradis in memory of Amy and Kevin Stevens.

- **BHCC Connections** will be meeting the first Sunday of April, due to Easter falling on our normal meeting day. Coffee and conversation is waiting for you!
- **Easter lilies and tulips** are available to order in memory or in honor of your loved one. The cost of a pot of tulips or a lily is \$20.00. Order forms are available on the welcome table – please fill one out and bring it to the church office *by March 31*.

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

INTROIT Seek Ye First, verse 1

Seek ye first the kingdom of God
And His righteousness
And all these things shall be added unto you
Allelu, alleluia

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (*by Thom Shuman*)

Leader: In the flowers stirring beneath the soil;
In the children chalking spring on sidewalks:

People: we glimpse how you love us, God of renewing love.

Leader: In the tears of a parent worrying over a child's illness;
in the weariness of those facing long shifts at work;

People: we remember how you love us, our Resurrection and our Life.

Leader: In the birds which rush into the sky;
in the words we are given to offer to the empty-hearted:

People: we see how you love us, Breath of our souls.

HYMN Come, and Let Us Sweetly Join

Come, and let us sweetly join,
Christ to praise in hymns divine;
give we all with one accord
glory to our common Lord.

Hands and hearts and voices raise,
sing as in the ancient days;
antedate the joys above,
celebrate the feast of love.

Jesus, dear expected Guest,
thou art bidden to the feast;
for thyself our hearts prepare;
come, and sit, and banquet there.

Sanctify us, Lord, and bless,
breathe thy Spirit, give thy peace;
thou thyself within us move,
make our feast a feast of love.

***OPENING PRAYER** (*unison, from RCL prayers*)

Holy God, Creator of Life: your breath brings life to dry bones and weary souls. Pour out your Spirit upon us, that whenever we face despair and death, we do so with the grace of companionship, the light of hope, and trust in the One who calls dry bones to new life, and who brings Lazarus up from the grave. Amen.

GLORIA PATRI (*You are invited to use the words that are most meaningful to you*)

Glory to the Almighty, to Jesus Christ, and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning Is now and ever shall be
World without end. Amen, amen.

CHILDREN'S TIME

PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY

All who wish may offer a prayer. As each prayer concludes, please join together in saying, "we walk with you in prayer."

Joys and Concerns

Text prayer requests in the chat box.

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer (*using "trespasses"*)

(You are invited to use the words that are most meaningful to you)

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Prayer Response Kyrie Eleison, verse 1

Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison , Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

A reading from The Book of Ezekiel, chapter 37, verses 1-14

The hand of the Lord came upon me, who brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones, who led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. Who said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord God, you know."

Then God 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 God 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 commanded, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

Then God 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.

A reading from the Gospel of John, chapter 11, verses 1-45

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." Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?"

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. But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them." After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him."

The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep.

Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him."

Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

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." Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

HYMN

Breathe on Me, Breath of God

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
fill me with life anew,
that I may love what thou dost love,
and do what thou wouldst do.

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
until my heart is pure
until with thee I will one will
to do and to endure.

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
Till I am wholly thine,
Until this earthly part of me
Glow with thy fire divine.

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
so shall I never die,
but live with thee the perfect life
of thine eternity.

MEDITATION

“Forensics”
Rev. Robert S. Benson

SPECIAL MUSIC

BHCC Choir

THE OFFERING

Offertory

***Doxology** *You are invited to use the words that are most meaningful to you*
Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise God all creatures here below
Praise God above ye heavenly host; Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***Prayer of Dedication** (*unison, by Rev. Elizabeth Dilley*)

Spirit of Life, we breathe our lives upon these gifts that they may become a fertile plain of green life and strengthened hope for all who live in dry valleys. May the wind of your love carry these gifts far beyond us to the places most in need of your compassionate grace. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

HYMN**Come, O Fount of Every Blessing**

Come, thou Fount of every blessing;
tune my heart to sing your grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing,
call for songs of endless praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
sung by flaming tongues above;
praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it,
mount of God's unfailing love!

Here I pause in my sojourning
Giving thanks for having come
Come to trust, at every turning
God will guide me safely home
Jesus sought me when a stranger
Wandering from the fold of God
Came to rescue me from danger
Blessed body, precious blood.

O to grace how great a debtor
daily I am drawn anew
Let that grace now, like a fetter,
bind my wandering heart to you
Prone to wander, I can feel it,
Wander from the love I've known
here's my heart; O take and seal it;
seal it for your very own.

BLESSING AND BENEDICTION *(by Rev. Elizabeth Dilley)*

Come out! Jesus commands, calling us from tombs of despair into the light of a new day.

Come out! Jesus cries, freeing us from the chains of our past.

Come out! Jesus calls, inviting us into a world filled with grace and possibility.

So: we go! Into a world that needs our life, our breath, our spirit!

We go! Into a world that needs the Spirit of God, carried on our lips of kindness and in our hands of compassion.

We go! Into the world to live as God's grace-filled people!

We go on the breath of God's holy wind!

Leader: We go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

SUNG RESPONSE I Want Jesus To Walk With Me, verse 3

When I'm in trouble, Lord walk with me

When I'm in trouble, Lord walk with me

When my head is bowed in sorrow,

Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me

CARRYING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO THE WORLD

POSTLUDE

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