



**ST. JOHN UNITED CHURCH**  
A UNITED METHODIST/PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA) COMMUNITY  
**WILDE LAKE INTERFAITH CENTER • COLUMBIA, MARYLAND**  
**UNITED IN LOVE – UNITED FOR SERVICE**

**March 26, 2023**

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT // IN-PERSON & ONLINE SERVICE

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Liturgist: Edna Quoie

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**WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME**

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PRELUDE

Patricia Hammer  
Accompanist

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING SONG

“Lord of the Dance”

GTG #157

I danced in the morning when the world was begun  
And I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun  
I came down from heaven and I danced on the earth  
At Bethlehem I had my birth

***Chorus***

*Dance, then, wherever you may be  
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he  
And I'll lead you all, wherever you may be  
And I'll lead you all in the dance, said he*

I danced for the scribe and the Pharisee  
But they would not dance and they would not follow me  
I danced for the fishermen, for James and John  
They came with me and the dance went on

***Chorus***

I danced on the Sabbath and I cured the lame  
The holy people said it was a shame  
They whipped and they stripped and they hung me high  
And they left me there on a cross to die

***Chorus***

I danced on a Friday when the sky turned black  
It's hard to dance with the devil on your back  
They buried my body and they thought I'd gone  
But I am the dance and I still go on

***Chorus***

They cut me down and I leapt up high  
I am the life that will never, never die  
I'll live in you if you'll live in me  
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he

***Chorus***

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Come, all you who hunger.

**Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled.**

Come, all you who hunger and thirst for righteousness.

**Blessed are you who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for you will be filled.**

The storehouses of heaven are available to all.

**God is a great provider, nourishing both our bodies and souls.**

Come to worship and be satisfied in community.

**The Spirit of Christ is here, among us. Come, let us worship!**

## OPENING PRAYER

*Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Director of Worship Arts, August 2022.*

We live in a world full of need and sorrow, risk and struggle, hope and despair. So, as we remember all those in need of prayer in our community and in our world, I ask you:

People of God, can these dry bones live?

**These bones are hungry, thirsty, and tired. Yet only God knows if these bones can live.**

People of God, can these dry bones live?

**These bones are suffering and in trouble. Yet only God knows if these bones can live.**

People of God, can these dry bones live?

**These bones face harmful division in families and communities. Yet only God knows if these bones can live.**

People of God, can these dry bones live?

**These bones struggle for life in a world threatened by war and rumors of war, by violence of every kind. Yet only God knows if these bones can live.**

People of God, can these dry bones live?

**These bones inhabit an earth that needs attention, care, and responsible stewardship. Yet only God knows if these bones can live.**

People of God, these bones are all of us. Now hear the good news: God breathes on us that we may live and that we may share this new life with our community through God's grace and love.

**Thanks be to God, who gathers and breathes the Breath of Life into our dry bones.**

**Amen.**

## ANTHEM

“Treasures In Heaven”

SJU Chancel Choir

(Allen Pote)

Lay not up for yourselves treasures on earth  
Where moth and rust corrupt, and where thieves break in and steal  
But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven  
For where your treasure is  
There will your heart be also

Give unto God with cheerfulness  
Not of necessity or with regret  
But give from within, from within your heart

## SCRIPTURE READING

John 11:1 – 45

## TIME WITH CHILDREN

Lenten Coin Calendar

Rev. Mary Ka Kanahan

## MESSAGE

“TAKE AWAY THE STONE”

Rev. Mary Ka Kanahan

## OFFERTORY SONG OF REFLECTION

“Open My Eyes That I May See”

GTG #451

Open my eyes, that I may see  
glimpses of truth thou hast for me.  
Place in my hands the wonderful key  
that shall unclasp and set me free.  
Silently now I wait for thee,  
ready, my God, thy will to see.  
Open my eyes, illumine me,  
Spirit divine!

Open my ears, that I may hear  
voices of truth thou sendest clear.  
And while the wave notes fall on my ear,  
everything false will disappear.  
Silently now I wait for thee,  
ready, my God, thy will to see.  
Open my ears, illumine me,  
Spirit divine!

Open my mouth, and let me bear  
gladly the warm truth everywhere.  
Open my heart, and let me prepare  
love with thy children thus to share.  
Silently now I wait for thee,  
ready, my God, thy will to see.  
Open my heart, illumine me,  
Spirit divine!

## CALL TO GENEROSITY

Almighty and restoring God, we have been living through some difficult days, as churches and as individuals. We experience days when we rise, wondering if we will make it through one more day, whether the church will survive for another generation; and we feel like those dry bones in the valley. As we offer our tithes and offerings, help us to hear the word of hope the prophet shares, not just with our ears but with our hearts. May it call us back to life and service, out of the graves of despair in which we have buried ourselves. In Christ's holy name. Amen.

## CLOSING SONG

“Holy Ground”

TFWS #2272

We are standing on holy ground  
And I know that there are angels all around  
Let us praise Jesus now  
We are standing in His presence on holy ground.

## BENEDICTION

*Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Director of Worship Arts, August 2022.*

May God bless you to be a community that comes to life with and for one another as God's Breath of Life sustains us on our journey. Amen.

## POSTLUDE

Patricia Hammer  
accompanist

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*Readings are NRSV unless otherwise noted. CEB=Common English Bible; CEV=Contemporary English Version; KJV=King James Version; MSG=The Message; NIV=New International Version; NLT=New Living Translation; TIB=The Inclusive Bible*

## **John 11:1 – 45**

11:1 Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha.

11:2 Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill.

11:3 So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill."

11:4 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."

11:5 Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus,

11:6 after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

11:7 Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again."

11:8 The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?"

11:9 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.

11:10 But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them."

11:11 After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him."

11:12 The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right."

11:13 Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep.

11:14 Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead.

11:15 For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him."

11:16 Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

11:17 When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days.

11:18 Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away,

11:19 and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother.

11:20 When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home.

11:21 Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.

11:22 But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him."

11:23 Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again."

11:24 Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day."

11:25 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live,

11:26 and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

11:27 She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

11:28 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."

11:29 And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him.

11:30 Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him.

11:31 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.

11:32 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."

11:33 When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved.

11:34 He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see."

11:35 Jesus began to weep.

11:36 So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!"

11:37 But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

11:38 Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it.

11:39 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."

11:40 Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?"

11:41 So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me.

11:42 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."

11:43 When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!"

11:44 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."

11:45 Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

