



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH** FORT SCOTT, KANSAS

**Fifth Sunday of Lent  
March 29, 2020**

# Hope For Uncertain Times

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**CALL TO WORSHIP:**

O mortal, can these bones live?

**Only the Lord God knows.**

O people, hope in the Lord.

**With the Lord there is steadfast love  
and great power to redeem.**

**PRAYER FOR THE DAY:**

Lord God, Great I AM,  
you are resurrection and life.

As we worship you this day

show us who we are:

bearers of good news,

messengers of resurrection;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**\*CALL TO CONFESSION:**

To set the mind on the flesh is death,  
but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.

Trusting in the Spirit of God,

let us confess our sin.

**\*UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION:**

**O Lord, if you held our sin against us,  
who could live, who could stand?**

**We seem to have more faith in death  
than hope in your promise of life.**

**We seek peace through war  
and find security in weapons.**

**We abandon the hungry, sick, and dying,  
and pursue wealth by making others poor.**

**And even so, you love us;  
still there is forgiveness with you!**

**Therefore we worship you;**

**for you alone, O Lord,**

**can save us from death**

**and redeem us from our sin. Amen.**

## CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

#377

**O Lord, have mercy, O Lord have mercy,  
O Lord have mercy, have mercy on us.  
O Christ have mercy, O Christ have mercy,  
O Christ have mercy, have mercy on us.**

### **\*DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS:**

O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord!  
If Jesus Christ dwells in you,  
the Spirit of God will be your life  
and the grace of God will be your righteousness.  
And if the Holy Spirit dwells in you,  
then God, who raised Jesus from the dead,  
will also give life to your mortal bodies.  
Friends, this is the good news of the gospel:  
In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PASSING OF THE PEACE

**Let us offer and receive the peace of Christ as a sign of  
God's grace and assurance of forgiveness.**

**Leader:           The peace of Christ be with you.**

**People:           And also with you.**

**(Take a moment to share Christ's peace by greeting those around you.)**

### **\*SUNG RESPONSE**

**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.**

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:**

Out of the depths we cry to you, O Lord.

**Lord, hear our voices  
and be attentive to our prayers.**

We pray for those whose hope is lost,  
who feel dried up and cut off from you.

**By your grace, open their graves;  
bring them back to the land of the living.**

We pray for those who are oppressed,  
held captive by the power of death.

**Release them from their chains;  
unbind them and let them go!**

We pray for those who weep,  
lost and lifeless in fear and regret.

**Grant them the peace of your presence;  
show them what your love can do.**

We pray for those who are dying,  
the light of life fading in their eyes.

**Help them to believe in you  
so that they may live and never die.**

We pray for those near to us who need your strength and healing...(prayer cards)

We pray especially for those we name now silently or aloud...

We thank you, O Lord,  
for having heard our prayers.

**Enable us to trust in you,  
and thus to see your glory;  
through Jesus Christ,  
the resurrection and the life. Amen.**

## **THE 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.**

## **PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION:**

O Lord, we wait for you,  
and in your Word we trust.  
By the power of your Spirit,  
set our hearts and minds  
on the source of life and peace:  
Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

## **FIRST READING: Ezekiel 37:1-14**

<sup>1</sup> The hand of the LORD was on me, and he brought me out by the Spirit of the LORD and set me in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. <sup>2</sup> He led me back and forth among them, and I saw a great many bones on the floor of the valley, bones that were very dry. <sup>3</sup> He asked me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" I said, "Sovereign LORD, you alone know." <sup>4</sup> Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones and say to them, 'Dry bones, hear the word of the LORD!' <sup>5</sup> This is what the Sovereign LORD says to these bones: I will make breath enter you, and you will come to life. <sup>6</sup> I will attach tendons to you and make flesh come upon you and cover you with skin; I will put breath in you, and you will come to life. Then you will know that I am the LORD.' " <sup>7</sup> So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I was prophesying, there was a noise, a rattling sound, and the bones came together, bone to bone. <sup>8</sup> I looked, and tendons and flesh appeared on them and skin covered them, but there was no breath in them. <sup>9</sup> Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath; prophesy, son of man, and say to it, 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: Come, breath, from the four winds and breathe into these slain, that they may live.' " <sup>10</sup> So I prophesied as he commanded me, and breath entered them; they came to life and stood up on their feet—a vast army. <sup>11</sup> Then he said to me: "Son of man, these bones are the people of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up and our hope is gone; we are cut off.' <sup>12</sup> Therefore prophesy and say to them: 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: My people, I am going to open your graves and bring you up from them; I will bring you back to the land of Israel. <sup>13</sup> Then you, my people, will know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves and bring you up from them. <sup>14</sup> I will put my Spirit in you and you will live, and I will settle you in your own land. Then you will know that I the LORD have spoken, and I have done it, declares the LORD.' "

## **SERMON:**

*"Hope For Uncertain Times"*

Rev. Dr Jared Witt

**\*THE NICENE CREED**

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things  
were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and  
the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered  
death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into  
heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the  
dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who  
with the Father and Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in  
one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look  
for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen**

**THE RECEIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS**

**DOXOLOGY: #34**

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

**\*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

**\*BLESSING:**

## **HOUSEHOLD PRAYERS**

### **MORNING**

O God, I know that you are the Lord,  
for you gave me my life,  
and caused me to rise this day.  
Put your Spirit within me,  
and let my words and actions  
help others to know  
that you are my Lord and my God. Amen.

### **EVENING**

My soul waits for you, O Lord,  
more than those who watch for morning,  
more than those who watch for morning.  
Help me to sleep this night in peace,  
trusting that you will awaken me;  
through Jesus Christ my Savior. Amen.