**GREENFIELD AVENUE**

**PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**The Rev. Dr. Bruce A. Jones, Interim**

**Pastor’s Cell 608-205-7428.**

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

**SILENT PRAYER OF MEDITATION**

These days of Lent are long---a journey built on faith.  As it nears its end, may God prepare us for what is to come: the prayerful last supper; the sadness of Jesus’ crucifixion; and the joy of Easter and His resurrection.

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Elder Mark Brodaczynski, Guest Preacher

**GATHERING MUSIC:** Sheri Masiakowski, Music Minister

**Call to Worship: (***Leader***and People responsively)**

*All things in life are connected.*

**Like the bones of the body are connected to one another.**

*Our faith connects and unites us with God.*

**May we feel those connections and unite with the Spirit.**

**\*\* OPENING HYMN #14**  “For the Beauty of the Earth” Dix

**Invitation to Confession**

*We confess that sin is an unfortunate part of life.  When we admit our wrongdoing, God hears, and answers.  Let us pray.*

**Prayer of Confession:  Unison**

**Gracious God, help me to know that I am not perfect, but understand that I should try my best.  May I shoot for the moon, and understand that if I touch a cloud, I have flown high and should push myself to fly even higher!  In the Lord Jesus Christ, may our spirits soar!  Amen.**

**Assurance of Pardon:**

*Failure is part of life, something to be learned from and not beaten down by.  Friends, continue to fly and try, knowing that God loves, and forgives.*

**Thanks be to God!  Amen!**

*I encourage you to trust in the Lord. Call, text, or email God’s peace to someone.*

**Prayer for Illumination**

**We know, Loving God.  It’s always darkest before dawn.  Remind us that brighter days lie ahead.  The sun will rise again, and because the Son rose again in, our sin is forgiven!  Help us to understand, and connect, as the Easter morn approaches.  Amen.**

**1st Reading:  Romans 8: 6-11**

To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law-- indeed it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

**2nd Reading:  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. He led me all around 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, “Prophesy 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, “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.” 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.

**SERMON**  “Them Bones, Them Bones”

**\*HYMN#286** “Breathe on Me, Breath of God” Trentham

**INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP**

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**\* HYMN#66** “Every Time I Feel the Spirit” Pentecost

# \*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION