

**United Church of Christ  
First Congregational  
Norwich NY 13815**

**March 29, 2020**



*A TIME OF GATHERING AS WE PREPARE TO WORSHIP GOD*

**PRELUDE**

Prelude in B Minor

By J. S. Bach

Transcribed by Alexander Siloti

Jason Handy, pianist

**WELCOME**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY** (Mary Williams,)

**ONE:** Lord God, Great I Am,  
you are resurrection and life.

**ALL:** As we worship you this day  
show us who we are:  
bearers of good news,  
messengers of resurrection;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*WE PRAISE GOD*

**CALL TO WORSHIP** (Mary Williams)

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.

**\*HYMN** *Holy Spirit, Ever Dwelling* (Tune: NETTLETON)

Mary Williams, voice; Bob Oehme, organ;

**THE LORD'S PRAYER ('DEBTS')** (Cheri Oakley)

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, for ever. Amen.

**\*THE CONGREGATIONAL GREETING OF PEACE**

**ONE:** May the peace of Christ be with you.

**ALL:** And also with you.

## WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

### SCRIPTURE – 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. <sup>2</sup> He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. <sup>3</sup> He said to me, “Mortal, can these bones live?” I answered, “O Lord GOD, you know.” <sup>4</sup> Then he said to me, “Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. <sup>5</sup> Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath<sup>□</sup> to enter you, and you shall live. <sup>6</sup> I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath<sup>□</sup> in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the LORD.”

<sup>7</sup> 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. <sup>8</sup> 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. <sup>9</sup> Then he said to me, “Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, mortal, and say to the breath: <sup>□</sup> Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath,<sup>□</sup> and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.” <sup>10</sup> I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

<sup>11</sup> 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.’ <sup>12</sup> Therefore prophecy, 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. <sup>13</sup> And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. <sup>14</sup> 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.”

### SPECIAL MUSIC

*In These Days of Lenten Journey*

Meena Conant, soloist

By Ricky Manalo

### SERMON

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

**HYMN** *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

(Tune: BEECHER)

Mary Williams, voice; Bob Oehme, organ

### BLESSING

May the Lord Jesus Christ,  
who is the resurrection and the life,  
bless and keep you in this life  
and the life to come.

### POSTLUDE

*Perfect Peace*

by Laura Story

Mary Williams, voice; Bob Oehme, piano