

Lakeshore Presbyterian Church  
March 26, 2023  
Pastor Diane Oswald, presiding

When you see **bold print**, the congregation is invited to join in.

**WELCOME**

**LENTEN CANDLE SERVICE** – Clay and Toni Osborne

*Two purple candles will be lit prior to service*

***Reader 1:****In this season of Lent, we reflect on our journey of faith with Christ, remembering that death no longer has a hold on us. Through Christ we are freed from the cold stone of the tomb and know the warm embrace of the light of life.*

***Reader 2:****We extinguish this purple candle on this fifth Sunday of Lent, remembering God's redeeming grace, and that new life comes out of death. We remember the former covenant written on stone, and the new covenant, written on our hearts, that we are God's children, and God's promise is life forevermore.*

*Together we pray:*

***As the days lengthen, dear God, may we remember that spring comes only after a long winter, that new life, eternal life, comes only after passing through death. In the name of Christ, with whom we journey towards the cross, we pray. Amen.***

**CALL TO WORSHIP** (from Psalm 130)

One: If you, O Lord, should mark inequities, Lord who could stand?

**ALL: But there is forgiveness with you.**

One: O Israel hope in the Lord for with the Lord there is steadfast love,

**ALL: And with Him great power to redeem.**

**HYMN** “Just As I Am, Without One Plea” #370

**1** Just as I am, without one plea  
But that Thy blood was shed for me,  
And that Thou bidst me come to Thee,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

**2** Just as I am, though tossed about  
With many a conflict, many a doubt,  
Fightings and fears within, without,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

**3** Just as I am, Thou wilt receive,  
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;

**Because Thy promise I believe,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!**

**4 Just as I am, Thy love unknown  
Has broken every barrier down;  
Now, to be Thine, yea, Thine alone,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!**

### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Lord, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed. Forgive us and enable us to live as your followers so that we may lead others to you. Amen.**

### **PERSONAL PRAYERS OF CONFESSION** (in silence)

### **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

### **RESPONSE OF PRAISE** Gloria Patri

**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.**

### **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

### **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

### **SCRIPTURE** John 11: 1-45

<sup>1</sup>Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. <sup>2</sup>Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. <sup>3</sup>So the sisters sent a message to Jesus,<sup>[a]</sup> 'Lord, he whom you love is ill.' <sup>4</sup>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.' <sup>5</sup>Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, <sup>6</sup>after having heard that Lazarus<sup>[b]</sup> was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

<sup>7</sup>Then after this he said to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judea again.' <sup>8</sup>The disciples said to him, 'Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?' <sup>9</sup>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. <sup>10</sup>But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them.' <sup>11</sup>After saying this, he told them, 'Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him.' <sup>12</sup>The disciples said to him, 'Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right.' <sup>13</sup>Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. <sup>14</sup>Then Jesus told them plainly, 'Lazarus is dead. <sup>15</sup>For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.' <sup>16</sup>Thomas, who was called the Twin,<sup>[c]</sup> said to his fellow-disciples, 'Let us also go, that we may die with him.'

17 When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus<sup>[d]</sup> had already been in the tomb for four days. 18 Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles<sup>[e]</sup> away, 19 and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. 20 When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. 21 Martha said to Jesus, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. 22 But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.' 23 Jesus said to her, 'Your brother will rise again.' 24 Martha said to him, 'I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.' 25 Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life.<sup>[f]</sup> Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, 26 and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?' 27 She said to him, 'Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah,<sup>[g]</sup> the Son of God, the one coming into the world.'

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.' 29 And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. 30 Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. 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. 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.' 33 When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. 34 He said, 'Where have you laid him?' They said to him, 'Lord, come and see.' 35 Jesus began to weep. 36 So the Jews said, 'See how he loved him!' 37 But some of them said, 'Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?'

38 Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. 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 for four days.' 40 Jesus said to her, 'Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?' 41 So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upwards and said, 'Father, I thank you for having heard me. 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.' 43 When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come out!' 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.'

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

## **SERMON "Because He Lives"**

### **HYMN "Because He Lives"**

#### **Verse 1**

**God sent His Son they called Him Jesus  
He came to love heal and forgive  
He bled and died to buy my pardon**

**An empty grave is there to prove  
My Savior lives**

**Chorus**

**Because He lives I can face tomorrow  
Because He lives all fear is gone  
Because I know He holds the future  
And life is worth the living  
Just because He lives**

**Verse 2**

**And then one day I'll cross that river  
I'll fight life's final war with pain  
And then as death gives way to vict'ry  
I'll see the lights of glory  
And I'll know He reigns**

### **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Let us say what we believe:

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried.**

**He descended into hell; On the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

### **PASSING OF THE PEACE**

May the peace of Christ rule in your hearts.

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you!**

Let us greet one another with the peace of Christ.

### **SHARING OF JOYS, CONCERNS AND PRAYER REQUESTS**

### **PASTORAL PRAYER**

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**Our Father, which 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, the power, and the glory, For ever and ever. Amen.**

**RESPONSE “Hear Our Prayer, O LORD”**

**Hear our prayer, O Lord  
Hear our prayer, O Lord  
Incline Thine ear to us  
And grant us Thy peace**

**THE OFFERING**

**DOXOLOGY #592**

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

**CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

**BENEDICTION RESPONSE “Jesus Loves Me” 304 v1 .**

**Jesus loves me! This I know.  
For the Bible tells me so.  
Little ones to Him belong  
They are weak but He is strong.**

**Yes, Jesus loves me!  
Yes, Jesus loves me!  
Yes, Jesus loves me!  
The Bible tells me so.**

**FELLOWSHIP**