

WESLEY MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Order of Worship **FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT**

March 26, 2023

7:30 am

WELCOME

The Reverend Dr. Jeff Patterson, Senior Pastor

CALL TO WORSHIP AND PRAYER

Ms. Adrienne Reeves, Lector

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also, with you.

Let us pray:

Almighty God, you alone can bring into order the unruly wills and affections of sinners: Grant your people grace to love what you command and desire what you promise; that, among the swift and varied changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found: through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

HYMN

As the Winter Days Grow Longer

Mary Louise Bringle
(b. 1953)

As the winter days grow longer, drawing short the hours of night;
as our eager expectation waits for Easter's dawning light
yearning people, here we gather, turning watchful eyes to you:
God who blesses earth with spring-time, shine within our world a-new!

As the vines burst into blossom, fragrant in the morning air,
lifting spirits with their sweetness, luring hearts to thankful prayer,
Lenten people, here we gather, seeking lives refreshed from sin.
God who blesses earth with spring-time, bloom within our hearts again!

As we journey through this season, pilgrims through a thirsty land,
quench us with your living presence; guide us with your loving hand.
Wandering people, here we gather, called to rest along our way.
God who blesses earth with spring-time, grant us sabbath joy this day!

SCRIPTURE READING

Ezekiel 37:1-10

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, "Prophecy 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, "Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, 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.

This is the Word of God. **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

"Speak Life"

The Reverend Dr. Jeff Patterson

SOLO

A Right Spirit

Stephan Casurella
(b. 1973)

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure; wash me, and I shall be clean indeed. Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me, according to your loving kindness; Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

DISMISSAL AND BLESSING

The Reverend Dr. Jeff Patterson

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Cortège

Richard Purvis
(1913-1994)

PARTICIPATING TODAY

The Reverend Dr. Jeff Patterson, Senior Pastor

Ms. Adrienne Reeves, Lector

Mrs. Clarice Friedrich, Soprano Soloist

Mr. Chris Massey, Audio Video Technician

Mr. Frank Pifferetti, Director of Traditional Music Ministries and Organist

TO GIVE:

www.wesleymemorial.org/give

Wesley Memorial UMC
1225 Chestnut Drive
High Point, NC 27262

Or text the word DETAILS to 94000

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