

Fifth Sunday in Lent, March 29, 2020

First Presbyterian Church of Sandpoint, Idaho

Pastor, Andy Kennaly Pianist, Annie Welle

Scriptures: Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 130; Romans 8:6-11; John 11:1-45

CALL TO WORSHIP

We gather to worship God. Where ever we find ourselves, we come with hope and trust. Distracted by many uncertainties, events unfolding beyond our control, social structures and systems stressed, we seek wholeness in God. We find our center, in Christ, who is the Resurrection and the Life. Help us, O God, to hear no other voice but your own, calling out our name, filled with care, love, and intention. As Jesus meets us here, let us worship God!

PIANO MUSIC Annie Welle

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Men: One sister of Lazarus, Martha, says to Jesus,

Women: “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.”

Men: A second sister of Lazarus, Mary, says to Jesus,

Women: “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.”

Leader: As people throughout time, and all around the world, face sickness, pain, and death, we hear the echo, saying to Jesus,

All: “Lord, if you had been here,…”

Leader: (*after pausing*) We are protected from nothing in life’s fragility,

All: yet in all things, our life is sustained in God, kept and held eternally, in Christ.

Leader: As Jesus joins those who weep, through his tears, he calls us by name.

SILENT REFLECTION, 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.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Hear these words of assurance: In baptism, washed in the waters, we die and rise with Christ, and are marked as Christ's own, forever. In Christ, we live and move and have our being, connected with the Source of life, sustained in love that has no end. These are not just lofty statements or doctrinal beliefs, but realities that point to Ultimate Reality, to Love holding all things together in Christ. Even the failings and frailties of life do not separate us from the Love of God in Christ Jesus, our Lord. The Peace of Christ be with you.

SCRIPTURES READ: Psalm 27:1, John 11:1-44

SERMON

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Holy God, true Source of all gifts, we give you thanks for engaging us in life's give and take, reminding us of our need to cultivate generous hearts and actions of service. Grow in us a spirit of generosity, and help us reach out as your hands and feet in the world. Bless the gifts we give for the work of your Church in the world. We pray in Jesus' name, as he gave of himself for others. Amen.

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION based on Psalm 27:1

"The LORD is my light and my salvation;
whom shall I fear?

The LORD is the stronghold of my life;
of whom shall I be afraid?"

Hearing the words of the Psalmist, we open our hearts and hopes to God Almighty, trusting the light and life of Christ, Jesus our Lord, who calls us deeper into loving Presence with the One who tells us, "do not fear." May the God who keeps our life, watches over our coming and our going, in the Love of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be with us NOW, this time, this moment, even as forevermore. Amen.