



Waterloo North Mennonite Church
Sunday, March 29, 2020, 10:00 a.m.
Lent 5: Show Us, God, your power over death itself

Focus statement: We hold in tension the truth that Jesus is the resurrection, and the reality that death does have some sting. Jesus, we need you to show us you have power over death itself.

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Chiming to Worship and Silent Reflection

Psalm Reading: Psalm 130

(see last page)

Call to Worship

Leader: In ancient times, Yahweh asked the prophet,
"Do you believe these dead bones can live again?"

People: The prophet answered, "O God, you know!"

Leader: In the time of Jesus, he asked Martha,
"Do you believe I am the resurrection and the life?"

People: Martha answered, "Yes, Lord, I believe."

Leader: Today God asks, "Do you trust that mourning can turn into joy?
That your weary bones will live again?"

People: We answer, "O God, show us!"

Hymn: HWB (blue) #584 They that wait upon the Lord (x3)

Affirmation of Faith

**All: Into the silence of the void our Creator spoke, bringing life.
The Cosmic Christ and the Holy Spirit hovered over the waters—
matter from nothing,
flesh from dust,
life from lifelessness.**

**We believe Jesus can bring life out of nothing,
but three days is a long time to wait.**

**Jesus, in our waiting for new life, give us hope.
Show us your resurrection power that we may fully believe.**

Children's Time

Congregational Prayer

Scripture Reading John 11:1-45

(see insert)

Hymn: HWB (blue) #614 In the bulb there is a flower

Sermon

Hymn of Response: STJ (green) #32 If you believe and I believe

Ritual of Response

Extinguishing the Light and Benediction

Leader: "Come out!" Jesus cries, calling us from our tombs into a world full of grace and possibility.

"Go out!" Jesus commands, calling us into the world to live as God's resurrected people.

With gratitude and respect, we recognize that we are worshipping on the traditional land that once belonged to the Haudenosaunee and Anishnaabe peoples. We regret the lack of respect given to the Indigenous people in the past, and pledge to work for justice and reconciliation.

Our Lenten theme is "Show Us". May our hearts and minds be open when we engage these texts and declare, "Show us." We seek to better understand God, and Jesus lived and taught to show everyone the will and passion of God. As we petition the passages to "Show Us", may we also be receptive to the surprising love and grace of God. The visuals for Lent present the bleak, lonely aspect of Lent. Extinguished candles will mark our journey to the cross.

Psalm 130 (NRSV)

¹ Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD.

² Lord, hear my voice!

Let your ears be attentive
to the voice of my supplications!

³ If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities,
Lord, who could stand?

⁴ But there is forgiveness with you,
so that you may be revered.

⁵ I wait for the LORD, my soul waits,
and in his word I hope;

⁶ my soul waits for the Lord
more than those who watch for the morning,
more than those who watch for the morning.

⁷ O Israel, hope in the LORD!

For with the LORD there is steadfast love,
and with him is great power to redeem.

⁸ It is he who will redeem Israel
from all its iniquities.

John 11:1-45 (NRSV)

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

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

¹⁷When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. ¹⁸Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, ¹⁹and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. ²⁰When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. ²¹Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²²But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." ²³Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." ²⁴Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." ²⁵Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. 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, 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 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 upward 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.