



## Words of Forgiveness

God's grace and understanding is deeper and wider than we could possibly imagine. So say these words of grace with me:

**Our story begins with belovedness. Even when we lose our way, even if we stumble and fall, God never stops breaking through the clouds to claim us. We are known. We are forgiven. We are beloved. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

Hymn This is the Spirit's Entry Now UMH 608 v. 1 & 3

## Sacrament of Baptism

Hymn Wonder of Wonders TFWS 2247 v. 2 & 3

Joys and Concerns; Prayers of the People Rev. Nancy Martin

## 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

## Children's Moment

Rev. Nancy Martin

Children are welcome to come to the front to hear about the scripture we're focusing on today. Adults may accompany their child(ren). Children can also stay in their seats.

Hymn Breathe on Me, Breath of God UMH 420 v. 1-3

Prayer of Illumination Dennis Stegall

Scripture Ezekiel 37:1-14 (NRSVUE)

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.

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.' 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. And you shall know that I am the Lord when I open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people. 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."

The Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon Rev. Nancy Martin

Hymn Spirit of the Living God UMH 393

Ministry Team Spotlight Janice Zelasko

\*Doxology UMH 94

Offertory Prayer Dennis Stegall

\*Closing Hymn Because He Lives UMH 364  
one of Joan Myers' favorite hymns

\*Benediction Rev. Nancy Martin

Postlude Judy Shaw

The asterisk (\*) indicates when to stand in body or spirit; UMH stands for the United Methodist Hymnal; TFWS stands for The Faith We Sing. Find these books in the pews.

Children are welcome in all aspects of our worship service. They can stay with their adult(s) or attend nursery or Children's Church. Nursery care is available starting at 9:45 AM for children four years old and under. Children's Church happens during our service, for those four years old through fifth grade, after the Children's Moment. Children learn more about the scripture we are focusing on in the worship service. Adults pick up their children after worship from the Children's Church room at the end of the Children's Corridor. All volunteers who work with children and youth have passed a background check, have been Safe Gatherings trained, and uphold our Safe Sanctuary policies and procedures.

Holy Communion: We, in the United Methodist Church, practice Open Communion, meaning anyone who loves Jesus, who earnestly repents of their sin, and seeks to live in peace with one another is welcome to the table. We use bread or crackers and grape juice, so as to have as inclusive a table as possible. Gluten free wafers and individual cups of grape juice are available on the stand between serving stations. Please place your empty cup in the bowl.

We have an offering plate in the back of the sanctuary as you exit the double doors. To give online, please scan this code using your smart phone's camera:



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Where have you seen God today?  
Where did you see God this week?  
Share it with us! email [office@frontyardchurch.org](mailto:office@frontyardchurch.org)