



March 26, 2023
 Fifth Sunday of Lent
 8:30 a.m.

Gathering those who fear they are not enough,
 so we may experience grace, wholeness, and renewal as God's beloved.

Preparing Our Hearts for Worship

Now this is what happens when you put a new set of eyes on an old text ... What kind of Christianity would we have if the faith hadn't only been based upon, "Peter, you are the Rock and upon this Rock I will build my church"? But what if we'd always known, "Mary, you are the Tower, and by this Tower, and by this Tower we shall all stand"?

– Diana Butler Bass

Centering Song (sung three times)

Be Still and Know

E* C#m* E7 C#m

Be still and know that I am God.

(F) (C) (Dm) (Em) (Fmaj7) (G7)
 A E F#m G#m Amaj7 B7

Be still and know that I am God.

TEXT and MUSIC: John L. Bell, 1989
 Text and Music © 1989 WGRG, Iona Community (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)

PSALM 46
 Irregular

Welcome

** Please stand in body or spirit*

* Song #634

To God Be the Glory

1 To God be the glo - ry; great things he has done!
2 Great things he has taught us; great things he has done,
So loved he the world that he gave us his Son,
and great our re - joic - ing through Je - sus the Son;
who yield - ed his life an a - tone - ment for sin,
but pur - er and high - er and great - er will be
and o - pened the life - gate that all may go in.
our won - der, our trans - port, when Je - sus we see.

This American gospel song became popular in England in the late 19th century, then returned to this country in the mid-20th century with the Billy Graham crusades. Its continuing popularity may well be due to the freedom from subjective considerations in its praise of God.

TEXT: Fanny Jane Crosby, 1875
MUSIC: William Howard Doane, 1875

TO GOD BE THE GLORY
11.11.11.11 with refrain

Silence

Opening Prayer

Scripture

John 11:1-45

¹Now 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?"⁹ 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. 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, ²⁶and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" ²⁷She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

²⁸When 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." ²⁹And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. ³⁰Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. ³¹The 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. ³²When 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." ³³When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. ³⁴He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." ³⁵Jesus began to weep. ³⁶So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" ³⁷But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

³⁸Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. ³⁹Jesus 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." ⁴⁰Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" ⁴¹So they took

away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. ⁴²I 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." ⁴³When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" ⁴⁴The 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."

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

ONE: The Word of the Lord.

ALL: **Thanks be to God.**



"Rubble" by Carmelle Beaugelin | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

Reflection

Can These Bones Live?

Megan Klose

Offering Gifts and Song

Can These Bones Live?

When the past is dead and bu - ried
When our hearts are bowed in sor - row
When our spi - rits feel so bro - ken

Life - less in the bar - ren ground
And the grief is new - ly wrought
Wrapped in lin - ens and en - tombed
What good Cry - ing
With - out

can e - merge from ash - es? Where can an - y
'If you'd on - ly been here" Weep - ing for what
hope and with - out feel - ing As the storm clouds

life be found? Breathe in deep the rush - ing
we have us lost loom Re - sur - rect our hearts and
'round us loom Hear the words of life from

Spi - rit Life is grow - ing all we a - round
spi - rits Liv - ing God whom we ex - round
Je - sus "Come out, be un - bound" and bloom

Prayers of the People

Myra Bridgforth

*The Prayers of the People are offered on behalf of and with the congregation, usually by an elder currently serving on Session (governing council) or other members of the congregation. In the silence following each petition, worshippers are invited to offer specific names or circumstances. At the end of each petition the leader will say, "Lord in your mercy," and together we will respond, "**Hear our prayer.**"*

Prayer Concerns

Bill Armstrong, father of Don Armstrong, preparing for radiation treatment

Phil Duncan, recovering after a recent hospitalization

Ruby Branscomb, recovering after an assault

Steven Shaw, in the hospital recovering from a gunshot wound, and his mother, Dot Shaw

Ronikqua Hammond, friend of Ruby Branscomb, following surgery

Continued Prayers

Kris Barth, Sarah Barth, Allan Capon, Neill Ferill, Mike Hugo, Miss Latifa, Rusty Lynn, Ruth Mileham, Sharane Patek, Dick Rowberg, Michael Volpe, Ken Waugh, Christa Young

Prayer requests can be sent to Pastor Megan at prayers@fallschurchpresby.org.

Communion of the People

Invitation to the Table, Prayer of Thanksgiving, the Lord's Prayer

ALL: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Distribution of the Elements

Communion is by intinction. Receive bread into your open hand and dip it in the cup. Bread is gluten-free and cup is non-alcoholic. Those joining us on livestream are invited to use whatever elements you have at home to join in the Lord's Supper.

Post-Communion Prayer

* Song #539

We Will Go Out with Joy



1 We will go out with joy in the Spir-it; we will go out with God.
2 Now an - y - one who's born of the Spir-it, sing a new song of joy.
3 We will go out with joy in the Spir-it; we will go out with God.



We will go out with joy in the Spir-it; we will go out with God.
Now an - y - one who's born of the Spir-it, sing a new song of joy.
We will go out with joy in the Spir-it; we will go out with God.



Al - le - lu - ia! We will go out with joy.



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Drawing on the phrasing of Isaiah 55:12, this joyful sending hymn was created by a musical Canadian father and daughter, beginning with the tune that emerged from a four-hand piano improvisation. The completed hymn later served as the recessional music for her wedding.

TEXT and MUSIC: Andrew Donaldson and Hilary Seraph Donaldson, 2003
Text and Music © 2003 Andrew Donaldson and Hilary Seraph Donaldson

WE WILL GO OUT WITH JOY
10.6.10.6 with refrain

Our Life Together as the Body of Christ

The Peace

ONE: The peace of Christ be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

Go now in peace, go now in peace, may the love of God surround you,
everywhere, everywhere, you may go.

Supporting us in Worship

Worship Leader

Myra Bridgforth

Music

Wendy Hellmann, piano

Audio/Video

Alex Hess

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A Warm Welcome

Thank you for joining us in worship this morning. If you would like to learn more about our community of faith, please visit www.fallschurchpresby.org.

Called Congregational Meeting, today, March 26

Session has called a congregational meeting for March 26, 2023, immediately following the 10:45 a.m. worship service. The purpose of the meeting is to elect the Pastoral Nominating Committee. The meeting will be held in the sanctuary and on Zoom. [Zoom Meeting ID: 856 2870 6440](https://zoom.us/j/85628706440)

Pastor Transition Notes

“Surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for ... your future ...” (Jeremiah 29:11)

- The Personnel Team is concluding its work of identifying a candidate for Transitional Pastor. It will submit its recommendation to Session for a vote at its next meeting on April 11. Pursuant to the Book of Order and the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (USA), Session has ultimate authority to hire the Transitional Pastor.
- Please remember to **attend the congregational meeting on Sunday, March 26**, following the 10:45 AM worship service for the purpose of voting to elect the PNC that will search for our new called pastor. Your presence is a sign that you support those who will do the hard work vital to our future as a faith community, and, in practical terms, is needed to be sure we have a quorum that allows us to conduct the vote. You may attend in person or on Zoom. Zoom ID: [856 2870 6440](https://zoom.us/j/85628706440).
- Your attendance is also vital at the all-church retreat where we will share our joys, our concerns, our hopes and our expectations, as we begin our search for our next senior pastor and head of staff.

ONE-DAY, ALL-CHURCH RETREAT AT FCPC, SATURDAY, APRIL 29, 9 AM – 3 PM

Session continues to welcome all input and asks for your prayers and support as we continue moving forward together.

Falls Church Presbyterian belongs to the Covenant Network of Presbyterians, “working for the unity of the church, furthering the inclusion of LGBTQ persons, seeking understanding and reconciliation, and joining with others seeking a still more just and inclusive church.”

The Rev. Megan Klose, Associate Pastor
Diane Maloney, Director of Spiritual Growth and Community Engagement
Dr. Don Armstrong, Director of Music
Dr. Lisa Bloy, Organist

Falls Church Presbyterian Church
225 East Broad Street, Falls Church, VA 22046 | 703-532-6518 | www.fallschurchpresby.org

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