

# OAK HILL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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March 26, 2023

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent

10:30 a.m.

**\*Please rise, in body or in spirit.**

**Gathering Music**

Brian, John, and Paul

**Welcome**

Rev. Wanda Lawry

**Prelude**

*Prelude Number 7*

John Holt

**\*Call to Worship**

Valery Welch

**Leader:** A great teacher once said: “When Jesus Christ calls us, he bids we come and die.” We are the people who have responded to this call.

**People:** **Through Christ, we want to die to the stubbornness that often keeps us from sharing our gifts.**

**Leader** Through Christ, we want to die to the fears that keep us from loving.

**People:** **Through Christ, we want to die seeking our own success and salvation in disregard for the good of all God’s children.**

**Leader** Lent is a time of tears, but this is God’s promise, that out of tears, joy is born—the joy of sin forgiven, hope reborn, and life restored.

**All:** **We stand in awe of the God who brings joy out of tears, and life out of death. Let us worship with reverence. Amen.**

**\*Opening Hymn**

*Lord, Who throughout These Forty Days*

No. 166

**Prayer for the Day (unison)**

Valery Welch

**God, be with us as we gather here! May we never lose sight of you. Let our songs be raised in praise and words. May our words celebrate your story of new life. Let our prayers be focused on you, free from distraction. Let the joys and sorrows we share, and the moments of silences bring us back to ourselves, that we might focus our attention on you. All praise and honor be yours, Emmanuel, God with us. Amen.**

**Call to Confession**

Rev. Wanda Lawry

**Prayer of Confession (unison)**

Oak Hill Community

**Almighty God,**

**We live in a world that seems dark at times. Shine your light on us, Illuminating God. We live among those who scoff at the truth. Warm our hearts with your truth. Out of fear, you bring hope. Out of anger, you draw calmness. Out of our questions, spring your answers. Out of death, you call forth life.**

**We come before you, God, whose time is not our own, assured that you share our grief and we share your resurrection. Where we see endings, create new beginnings. Where we react in fear, respond with hope. Where we feel defeats, share your victory. Still our doubts. Fill us with belief.**

**We confess our weakness. You are our strength. God of healing, God of hope, bear with us a little longer, on this pilgrim way, until we proclaim with joy the resurrection of Jesus once more! Amen.**

*Time for silent prayers of confession.*

**Assurance of Pardon**

Rev. Wanda Lawry

**Hymn**

*Breathe on Me. Breath of God*

No. 286

**Peace**

Oak Hill Community

**Time for Growing Disciples**

Rev. Wanda Lawry

<b>Anthem</b>	<i>Dry Bones</i>	Oak Hill Singers
<b>First Scripture Reading</b>	Ezekiel 37:1-14	Valery Welch
<b>Second Scripture Reading</b>	John 11:1-45	Rev. Wanda Lawry
<b>Sermon</b>	<i>New Life in Christ</i>	Rev. Wanda Lawry
<b>Meditation</b>	<i>Meditation Number 7</i>	John Holt
<b>Offering</b>	<i>You can make an offering online at <a href="http://www.oakhillpcusa.org">www.oakhillpcusa.org</a>, place it in the plate on the table in the back of the sanctuary, or mail your check to the church.</i>	Oak Hill Community
<b>*Response</b>	<i>We Give Thee but Thine Own</i>	
	<b>We give thee but thine own, whate'er the gift may be; all that we have is thine alone, a trust, O Lord from thee.</b>	
<b>Prayers of the People</b>		Oak Hill Community
<b>The Lord's Prayer</b>		Oak Hill Community
	<b>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.</b>	
<b>Announcements</b>		Rev. Wanda Lawry
<b>*Closing Hymn</b>	<i>Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness</i>	No. 291
<b>Benediction</b>		Rev. Wanda Lawry

**First Scripture Reading** Ezekiel 37:1-14

37The 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. <sup>2</sup>He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. <sup>3</sup>He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." <sup>4</sup>Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. <sup>5</sup>Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. <sup>6</sup>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." <sup>7</sup>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. <sup>8</sup>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. <sup>9</sup>Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophesy, 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." <sup>10</sup>I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude. <sup>11</sup>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.' <sup>12</sup>Therefore prophesy, 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. <sup>13</sup>And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. <sup>14</sup>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.

*Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.*

*People: Thanks be to God!*

## Second Scripture Reading

John 11:1-45

11 Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. <sup>2</sup>Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. <sup>3</sup>So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." <sup>4</sup>But 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." <sup>5</sup>Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, <sup>6</sup>after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. <sup>7</sup>Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." <sup>8</sup>The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" <sup>9</sup>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. <sup>10</sup>But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them." <sup>11</sup>After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." <sup>12</sup>The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." <sup>13</sup>Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. <sup>14</sup>Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. <sup>15</sup>For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." <sup>16</sup>Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

<sup>17</sup>When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. <sup>18</sup>Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, <sup>19</sup>and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. <sup>20</sup>When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. <sup>21</sup>Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. <sup>22</sup>But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." <sup>23</sup>Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." <sup>24</sup>Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." <sup>25</sup>Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, <sup>26</sup>and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" <sup>27</sup>She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world." <sup>28</sup>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." <sup>29</sup>And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. <sup>30</sup>Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. <sup>31</sup>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. <sup>32</sup>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."

<sup>33</sup>When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. <sup>34</sup>He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." <sup>35</sup>Jesus began to weep. <sup>36</sup>So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" <sup>37</sup>But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?" <sup>38</sup>Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. <sup>39</sup>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." <sup>40</sup>Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" <sup>41</sup>So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. <sup>42</sup>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." <sup>43</sup>When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" <sup>44</sup>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."

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

*Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.*

***People: Thanks be to God!***

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*Thank you for participating today in worship with Oak Hill. Please check our website for more information and updates: [www.oakhillpcusa.org](http://www.oakhillpcusa.org).*

# Lord, Who throughout These Forty Days

1 Lord, who through-out these for - ty days for us did fast and  
 2 As you with Sa - tan did con-tend and did the vic-tory  
 3 And through these days of pen - i - tence, and through this Pas-sion-  
 4 A - bide with us, till when this life of suf - fering shall be

pray, teach us with you to mourn our sins and close by you to stay.  
 win, O give us strength to per - se - vere, in you to con-quer sin.  
 tide, yes, ev - er - more, in life and death, O Lord, with us a - bide.  
 past, an Eas - ter of un - end - ing joy we may at-tain at last.

Like many of this author's hymns, this text was written primarily for children but works equally well in reminding adults how Lent connects us with Christ's temptation in the wilderness and prepares us for Easter. The 16th-century English psalm tune provides sturdy support.

TEXT: Claudia F. I. Hernaman, 1873, alt.  
 MUSIC: Day's *Psalter*, 1562.

ST. FLAVIAN  
 CM

## Breathe on Me, Breath of God 286

1 Breathe on me, Breath of God; fill me with life a - new,  
2 Breathe on me, Breath of God, un - til my heart is pure,  
3 Breathe on me, Breath of God, till I am whol - ly thine,  
4 Breathe on me, Breath of God, so shall I nev - er die,

that I may love what thou dost love, and do what thou wouldst do.  
un - til with thee I will one will, to do and to en - dure.  
un - til this earth - ly part of me glows with thy fire di - vine.  
but live with thee the per - fect life of thine e - ter - ni - ty.

In both Hebrew and Greek, the words for "spirit" can equally well be translated as "breath" or "wind," so it is very appropriate to address the Holy Spirit as the "Breath of God." This tune by an English organist has become the customary one in North American hymnals.

TEXT: Edwin Hatch, 1878  
MUSIC: Robert Jackson, 1888

TRENTHAM  
SM

# 291 Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness

*Refrain*

Spir - it, spir - it of gen - tle - ness, blow through the  
wil - der - ness, call - ing and free.

Chords: D, G, A, D, Bm, E, Asus, A, D, G

spir - it of rest - less - ness, stir me from plac - id - ness,  
wind, wind on the sea.

Chords: A, D, G, Bm, G, A, D, G, D, F#m

1 You moved on the wa - ters; you called to the  
2 You swept through the des - ert; you stung with the  
3 You sang in a sta - ble; you cried with a  
4 You call from to - mor - row; you break an - cient

Chords: D, G, A, Bm

deep; then you coaxed up the moun - tains from the  
sand; and you goad - ed your peo - ple with a  
hill; then you whis - pered in si - lence when the  
schemes; from the bond - age of sor - row the

Chords: D, Bm

val - leys of sleep; and o - ver the  
law and a land. When they were con - found -  
whole world was still. And down in the cit -  
cap - tives dream dreams. Our wom - en see vi -

Chords: E, Asus, A, D, G

ons you called to each thing, "A -  
ed with i - dols and lies, then you  
y, you called once a - gain eyes. when you  
sions; our men clear their eyes. With

Chords: A, G, D

wake from your slum - bers and  
spoke through your proph - ets to  
bold new de - ci - sions ple on the  
your your de - ci - sions your

Chords: Bm, G

rise on your wings."  
o - pen their eyes.  
rush of the wind.  
peo - ple a - rise.

Chords: A, D, G/A, D, A to Refrain

As the author/composer reminds us in the refrain, the Spirit is both gentle and restless. The stanzas refrain a sense of the Spirit's activity through a wide range of verbs, initially, in the past tense; but they become more urgent in the present tense of the fourth stanza.

TEXT: James K. Manley, 1975, alt.  
MUSIC: James K. Manley, 1976  
Text and Music © 1978 James K. Manley  
Spirit  
Inspirat.