

I forget that you, too, have wept.
I forget that you, too, have lost.
I forget that you, too, have gathered at the tomb,
have grieved for a friend, have felt the sting of humanity.
Forgive me for all the times I place blame on you.
Forgive me for all the times I create distance, imagining that you could
never feel what I feel. Forgive me for allowing the valley of dry bones to
be a sea of space between us.
Pour yourself into the cracks in my heart. Bring these bones back to life.
Bring me closer to you. With gratitude I pray, amen.

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS (from *Sanctified Art*)*

Friends, you could spend your whole life ignoring God,
pushing God away,
or trying to solve the world's problems all on your own,
and God would still love you all the same.
Even in our shortcomings, we are God's beloved.
So hear and believe this good news:
We are saved by grace through faith.
We belong to God.
We are not alone.

OPENING HYMN – VU 382 *Breathe On Me, Breath of God*

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
fill me with life anew,
that I may love the way you love,
and do what you would do.

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
until my heart is pure,
until my will is one with yours,
to do and to endure.

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
Until I am wholly thine,

Until this earthly part of me
Glow with the fire divine.

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
so shall I never die,
but live with you the perfect life
for all eternity.

Words: Edwin Hatch. Music: Robert Jackson.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Let us greet one another with signs of the peace of Christ.

SCRIPTURE - Ezekiel 37:1-14

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. ²He led me all round them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. ³He said to me, 'Mortal, can these bones live?' I answered, 'O Lord GOD, you know.' ⁴Then he said to me, 'Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. ⁵Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath^[a] to enter you, and you shall live. ⁶I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath^[b] in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the LORD.'
⁷So 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. ⁸I 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. ⁹Then he said to me, 'Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, mortal, and say to the breath:^[c] Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath,^[d] and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.' ¹⁰I prophesied as he

commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

¹¹ 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." ¹² 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. ¹³ And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. ¹⁴ 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.'

ANTHEM – *The Lord is My Shepherd (Psalm 23)*

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want;
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures;
He leadeth me beside the still waters. (x2)

Yea, though I walk through the valley
of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil (x2)

For you are with me,
You will comfort me,
You are with me,
You will comfort me

Surely goodness and mercy
Shall follow me all the days of my life.
And I will dwell in the home of the Lord, forever.

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SERMON: *I Will Put my Spirit Within You, and You Shall Live*

Russ Daye

STATEMENT OF FAITH – *A New Creed*, The United Church of Canada

We are not alone,

we live in God's world.

We believe in God:

who has created and is creating,

who has come in Jesus,

the Word made flesh,

to reconcile and make new,

who works in us and others

by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church:

to celebrate God's presence,

to live with respect in Creation,

to love and serve others,

to seek justice and resist evil,

to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,

our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death,

God is with us.

We are not alone.

Thanks be to God.

OFFERING, ANNOUNCEMENTS, MOMENTS OF AWE

- Coffee Hour at BSUC Offices, this upcoming Tuesday, March 28 at
1:30pm

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

May you feel protected and safe.

May you feel contented and pleased.

May your body support you with strength.

May your life unfold in God's grace.

In our ongoing prayer cycle:

Billie and Don Grant, David Gubbins, Tyrone Hall, Ben Hartmans, Conrad Hazen, Eric, Jacquie, Charlotte and Sophie Heath

Healing and Transformation:

Roeland Hartmans, Cora Job and family, Don Matheson, Diane Montgomery, Patsy Porter and family on the death of Tim, Karl Shuler, Rev. Sam Young and Cindy, his wife, Marion Wall, Cynthia Williams

St. Matthew's: Dave Carter-Whitney's brother, Herb, Nelly Kimunguyi, Laurie's mother, Shirley, Jayne Cook, Beatrice's mother, Peduhbun Migizi Kwe/Catherine Brooks, Cynthia Drakes, Dorothy Henry, Lloyd Batchelor, Shireen, Sadie Dawson and Alex Hodges, Casilda, Cassandra, Rosie, Daphne and Lilliah, the Alaalyan families, Karen Hilfman Millson, Joseph Kizza

THE PRAYER OF JESUS

**Our Mother and 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, the power and the glory,
forever and ever.**

CLOSING HYMN — VU 186 *Now the Green Blade Rises*

Now the green blade rises from the buried grain
Wheat that in the dark earth many years has lain
Love lives again, that with the dead has been
Love is come again like wheat that springs up green

In the grave they laid Him, by hatred slain

Thinking that he would never wake again
Laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen
Love is come again like wheat that springs up green

Forth He came at Easter, like the risen grain
He that for three days in the grave had lain
Raised from the dead, my risen Lord is seen
Love is come again like wheat that springs up green

When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain
Thy touch can call us back to life again
Fields of our hearts, that dead and bare have been
Love is come again like wheat that springs up green
Love is come again like wheat that springs up green

Words: John M. C. Crum. Music: Medieval French carol. Copyright 1928 Oxford University Press.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Mikey Zahorak

*Prayers throughout today's service from A Sanctified Art are written by Rev. Sarah A. Speed |
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