

# ECHO PARK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## A Service of Worship for March 29, 2020 The Fifth Sunday in Lent



The hand of GOD came upon me, and brought me out by GOD' s spirit  
and set me down in the middle of a valley;  
it was full of bones.  
(*Ezekiel 37:1*)

### **WE GATHER AS COMMUNITY TO WORSHIP GOD**

#### MEDITATIVE MUSIC

##### PRELUDE

##### We Gather Together

Ms. Mina Rhee, Music Director

Words: *Nederlandsch Gedenckclanck*; Music: 16<sup>th</sup> Century Dutch Melody  
(United Methodist Hymnal # 131)

- Verse 1: We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing;  
he chastens and hastens his will to make known.  
The wicked oppressing now cease from distressing.  
Sing praises to his name; he forgets not his own.
- Verse 2: Beside us to guide us, our God with us joining;  
ordaining, maintaining his kingdom divine;  
so from the beginning the fight we were winning;  
thou, Lord, wast at our side, all glory be thine.
- Verse 3: We all do extol thee, thou leader triumphant,  
and pray that thou still our defender wilt be.  
Let thy congregation escape tribulation;  
thy name be ever praised! O Lord, make us free.

##### WELCOME

Rev. Frank Wulf, Pastor

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Frank Wulf, Pastor

- *The Echo* was distributed by email this morning and will be mailed later this week to those who cannot receive it electronically. The deadline for submitting articles for the May edition of *The Echo* will be Wednesday, April 29.
- Please join us for “Called to Be the Church,” our online Lenten Bible study, from 7:00-8:30 p.m. this coming Tuesday, March 24. Our theme for this week is “Who’d Have Thunk It,” based on Ezekiel 37:1-14. You can join us online at <https://zoom.us/j/7184544317> or by calling in to 1-669-900-9128 and using meeting id 718 454 4317#.
- Because of ongoing *Stay-at-Home* orders, all in-person meetings and worship services are suspended indefinitely. In the meantime, we will continue to have online worship services.
- We encourage you to visit our Facebook page to take part in our online Holy Week and Easter services: @EchoParkUnitedMethodistChurch. Please note the following dates and times of services:
  - Palm Sunday – April 5, 10:30 a.m.
  - Maundy Thursday – April 9, 7:00 p.m.
  - Good Friday – April 10, 7:00 p.m.
  - Easter Sunday – April 12, 10:30 a.m.
- We are looking for people to record themselves reading scripture, offering a prayer, singing a song, or... for inclusion in our online worship services. If you are willing and able to participate in this way, please let Pastor Wulf know.
- If you need help during this time of staying at home – whether it be people who can pick up and deliver your groceries and prescriptions, people who can drive you to medical appointments, or just people with whom you can talk and pray – please feel free to contact the church office, call the Pastor on his cell phone, or send him an email. The Pastor will respond as quickly as he is able.

## OPENING PRAYER

Rev. Frank Wulf, Pastor

(Based on Ezekiel 37:1-14; John 11:1-45)

God, the Giver of life, you have come into the midst of this world to experience our joys and share our sorrows. In Jesus, you have known the elation of love... and the devastation of grief. You have laughed at the birth of a baby... and wept at the death of an elder. You have rejoiced at the

good... and raged against the evil. You have embraced our hope... and confronted our despair.

This is why we turn to you, O God, in moments like these. When the certainties of our world are shaken, on whom can we depend but you? You who wept at the tomb of Lazarus are also the one who has power to bring new life to dry bones.

Give us that life, that we may face the uncertainties of our world with courage and without fear. Give us that life, that we may worship you and confront the powers of wickedness and death in the sure and certain knowledge that you are indeed a God of life, and that we are a people of resurrection. Amen.

## **HYMN**

### **Be Thou My Vision**

Words: Ancient Irish; Music: Traditional Irish Melody  
(United Methodist Hymnal # 451)

- Verse 1:**    **Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;  
naught be all else to me save that thou art.  
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,  
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.**
- Verse 2:**    **Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;  
I ever with thee and thou with me Lord;  
thou and thou only, first in my heart,  
great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.**
- Verse 3:**    **Great God of heaven, my victory won,  
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.**

## **PASTORAL PRAYER**

Rev. Frank Wulf, Pastor

### **WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD**

## SCRIPTURE

### The Vision of the Dry Bones Ezekiel 37:1-14 (*New Revised Standard Version*)

Ms. Lisa Palombi, Liturgist

<sup>1</sup>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. <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, “Prophesy 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, “Prophesy 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.”

## SCRIPTURE

### Jesus Raises Lazarus from the Dead John 11:38-44 (*New Revised Standard Version*)

Rev. Frank Wulf, Pastor

<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.”

## **MEDITATION**

Who’d Have Thought It?

Rev. Frank Wulf, Pastor

### **WE RESPOND WITH THANKSGIVING TO GOD’S WORD**

## **PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS**

### ***Invitation to Offering***

Rev. Frank Wulf, Pastor

During this difficult time when COVID-19 seems to have brought the world to a standstill, Echo Park United Methodist Church needs your financial support more than ever. We invite you to make your donation to the church in one of two ways:

- Make out your checks to Echo Park UMC and mail them to the church office at 1226 N. Alvarado Street, Los Angeles, CA 90026.
- Go online to <https://echoparkumc.wordpress.com/donate-here/>, click on the “Donate” button, and follow the instructions provided.

### ***Prayer of Thanksgiving***

Rev. Frank Wulf, Pastor

God of new life, here in the midst of this world that you have created, we turn to you with courage and with hope. You have been our God in good times and in bad times. You have carried us through seasons of laughter and seasons of tears. And we know that you will not abandon us now. So, take these gifts as a sign of our faith and trust in you. Use them to accomplish your good purposes in our world. Amen.

**WE ARE SENT FORTH FOR SERVICE IN GOD'S WORLD**

**Offertory Hymn**

My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

Words: Edward Mote; Music: William B. Bradbury

- Verse 1:** My hope is built on nothing less  
than Jesus' blood and righteousness.  
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,  
but wholly lean on Jesus' name.
- Refrain:** On Christ the solid rock I stand,  
all other ground is sinking sand;  
all other ground is sinking sand.
- Verse 2:** When darkness veils his lovely face,  
I rest on his unchanging grace.  
In every high and stormy gale,  
my anchor holds within the veil. *(Refrain)*
- Verse 3:** His oath, his covenant, his blood  
support me in the whelming flood.  
When all around my soul gives way,  
he then is all my hope and stay. *(Refrain)*
- Verse 4:** When he shall come with trumpet sound,  
O may I then in him be found!  
Dressed in his righteousness alone,  
faultless to stand before the throne. *(Refrain)*

**BENEDICTION**

Rev. Frank Wulf, Pastor

God is our life. God leads us through the darkest and most difficult of times, giving us hope we need to go on. So let us go in peace to do the work of justice, to proclaim a word of grace, and to love with a love that surpasses all understanding. And may blessing of God go with us now and always. Amen.

**POSTLUDE**

*Thank you to all who took part in this online service of worship!*

*We invite you to join us again next week as we continue to experiment  
and grow in this new way of being community during this season  
of the COVID-19 pandemic.*