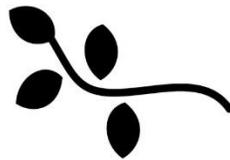




**...a season to dream, explore and recommit to
faith in action!**



CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER
CELEBRATING LOVE. DOING JUSTICE.

Sunday March 22, 2026 – 10:30 AM
Fifth Sunday of Lent

PRELUDE *“The Lovely Name of Jesus”- Eric Lewis*

ENTRANCE HYMN God Is Truly with Us (NCH 68)

1 God is truly with us;
sing we and adore now;
praise the One we come before now.
Here within this temple,
here in sound and silence,
worship God in deepest reverence.
You alone, God, we own,
you, our God and Savior;
praise to you forever.

2 God is truly with us;
loud our praise resounding!
Echoes of the saints surrounding!
"Holy, holy, holy,"
hear the hymn ascending,
angels, saints, their voices blending!
Bow your ear to us here;
hear, O Christ, the praises
that your Church now raises.

3 Source of every blessing,
bless the ones who name you,
let our words and deeds proclaim you.
Like the saints and angels
praising you in glory,
may your servants sing your story.
And in all, great and small,
may we do most nearly
what you love most dearly.

GREETING

Blessed be God who loves us in our limitations and fosters our loving all whom we meet.

Blessed be the ones who welcome the Christ in us all.

CONFESSION

During the season of Lent we take inventory of our lives, as we confess our separation from God, our neighbors, and ourselves. A period of silence for personal prayer and reflection will be observed.

Let us pray together;

Most merciful God, we confess before you and one another that we have fallen short of the wholeness you desire for us. We have betrayed your trust. We have been less than you created us to be. We have failed to speak out against that which is evil. We have cooperated with systems of injustice. We have built our prosperity upon the lives of others who suffer. We know that you accept and forgive us. We know that you are always ready to heal us of our ignorance and lack of concern for others. Help us to open our hearts to your love, that in so doing we may love ourselves along with our neighbor, strive for justice for all people, and hold forth the vision of what is possible. This we pray as Jesus, our great teacher modeled and who chose life in choosing death. AMEN.

ABSOLUTION

The Officiant says to the People:

God freely offers forgiveness and calls us to turn and live in the joy of God's love. God has given power to all people to forgive one another and themselves. Therefore, know that God forgives us. Therefore let us forgive ourselves and accept others forgiven and be free.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

God is with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

God of compassion, you call us out of the bindings of death on this our resurrection day: make us ready to surrender the fear in which we hide to step into your future alive and unashamed; through Jesus Christ, the life of the world. AMEN.

“O God, we hear and hear, and do not understand. We see and see, but do not perceive. Sharpen our memory, unlock our grief, teach us to name what is evil and refuse it: even when it seems normal even when it seems necessary even when it is commanded by religion; then, now, always.” AMEN.

SCRIPTURE APPOINTED for the DAY

A reading from the Prophet Ezekiel 37:1-14

Translation; Complete Jewish Bible

With the hand of *Adonai* upon me, *Adonai* carried me out by his Spirit and set me down in the middle of the valley, and it was full of bones. ² He had me pass by all around them — there were so many bones lying in the valley, and they were so dry! ³ He asked me, “Human being, can these bones live?” I answered, “*Adonai Elohim!* Only you know that!” ⁴ Then he said to me, “Prophecy over these bones! Say to them, ‘Dry bones! Hear what *Adonai* has to say!’ ⁵ To these bones *Adonai Elohim* says, ‘I will make breath enter you, and you will live. ⁶ I will attach ligaments to you, make flesh grow on you, cover you with skin and put breath in you. You will live, and you will know that I am *Adonai*.’”

⁷ So I prophesied as ordered; and while I was prophesying, there was a noise, a rattling sound; it was the bones coming together, each bone in its proper place. ⁸ As I watched, ligaments grew on them, flesh appeared and skin covered them; but there was no breath in them. ⁹ Next he said to me, “Prophecy to the breath! Prophecy, human being! Say to the breath that *Adonai Elohim* says, ‘Come from the four winds, breath; and breathe on these slain, so that they can live.’”

¹⁰ So I prophesied as ordered, and the breath came into them, and they were alive! They stood up on their feet, a huge army! ¹¹ Then he said to me, “Human being! These bones are the whole house of Isra’el; and they are saying, ‘Our bones have dried up, our hope is gone, and we are completely cut off.’ ¹² Therefore prophecy; say to them that *Adonai Elohim* says, ‘My people! I will open your graves and make you get up out of your graves, and I will bring you into the land of Isra’el. ¹³ Then you will know that I am *Adonai* — when I have opened your graves and made you get up out of your graves, my people! ¹⁴ I will put my Spirit in you;

and you will be alive. Then I will place you in your own land; and you will know that I, Adonai, have spoken, and that I have done it,' says Adonai."

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church. **Thanks be to God**

PSALM 130 (NCH pg. 709) *Krista will chant the verses, the congregation sings the response*



¹ Out of the depths have I called to you,
O GOD;
² O GOD, hear my voice!

Let your ears be attentive to the voice of
my supplications!

³ If you, O GOD, should mark
iniquities, who could stand? **R**

⁷ O Israel, hope in God!
For with GOD there is steadfast
love.

⁴ But there is forgiveness with you, so
that you may be revered.

⁵ I wait for God, my soul waits, and
in God's word is my hope;

⁶ my soul waits for the GOD, more than those
who watch for the morning,
more than those who watch for the
morning.

With God is great power to redeem;
⁸ It is God who will redeem Israel
from all its iniquities. **R**

A reading from A Martyr's Message of Hope by Archbishop Oscar Romero

We do not celebrate merely a Christ who rose without us.

During Lent we are empowered to rise with him to a new life-to become precisely those new people needed today in our country.

We should not just seek changes in structures because new structures are worth nothing when there are no new people to manage them and live in them.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church

Thanks be to God

THE GOSPEL OF OUR SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO JOHN 11:1-45

The Gospel of the Savior.

Praise to you, O Christ

HOMILY

PROFESSION OF FAITH

We believe in God, who creates all things, who embraces all things, who celebrates all things, who is present in every part of the fabric of creation.

We believe in God as the source of all life, who baptizes this planet with living water.

We believe in Jesus Christ, the suffering one, the poor one, the malnourished one, the climate refugee, who loves and cares for this world and who suffers with it.

And we believe in Jesus Christ, the seed of life, who came to reconcile and renew this world and everything in it.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the breath of God, who moves with God and who moves among and with us today. And we believe in the hope that one day God will put an end to death and all destructive forces.

PRAYERS and PETITIONS of the PEOPLE

O God of our hearts, God of love, you are with us in every transition and change.

We recall your deep compassion, presence and abounding love.

We thank you for the gifts, talents and skills with which you have blessed us.

We thank you for the experiences that have brought us to this moment.

We thank you for the work of others that gives breadth and depth to our own work.

Be with us as we move forward, rejoicing with you and supporting one another.

God of mercy, God of peace, **hear our prayer.**

During this season of Lent, let us hold close to our hearts all those in need, those who suffer, and those who mourn. In the prayers that follow, you are invited to respond with your own concerns and thanksgivings related to the particular focus of each petition

For those who are experiencing homelessness, unemployment, underemployment or loneliness, that we may lift each other's' burdens.

(You are invited to add your specific concerns and thanksgivings in this area.)

O God of mercy,

Receive our prayer.

For the health and regeneration of our living planet Earth, that we may accept our responsibility for its care and future.

(You are invited to add your specific concerns and thanksgivings in this area.)

O God of creation,

Receive our prayer.

For all who govern within our towns, states and nations, that they will hear and heed the cry of all in need, and awaken to the call for peace.

(You are invited to add your specific concerns and thanksgivings in this area.)

O God of reconciliation,

Receive our prayer

For those who struggle to see you in their lives and relationships, that we may reflect your Divine love to them.

(You are invited to add your specific concerns and thanksgivings in this area.)

O God of tenderness,

Receive our prayer.

For those for whom the Immigration Customs Enforcement Agency has caused pain, suffering, and hardship, that those around them will respond tenderly.

(You are invited to add your specific concerns and thanksgivings in this area.)

O God of compassion,

God of peace, receive our prayer.

For all who are harmed because of their race or ethnicity, that we may work to dismantle systems of oppression.

(You are invited to add your specific concerns and thanksgivings in this area.)

O God of love,

Receive our prayer.

We now pray the concerns and thanksgivings of this parish family.

(You are invited to add additional concerns and thanksgivings.)

We know that you hear our prayers, O God. During this season of Lent, help us to open ourselves to the needs of those around us, that by so doing, we may reveal the beauty of your beloved community. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

We, who were enemies of one another and of life, have been reconciled by the free gift of God; for while we were still at war God has made peace by the blood of the cross.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERTORY – “God, I Would Follow” - Eric Lewis

Krista Donough – Soprano, Chris Henke - Piano

GATHERING at the TABLE

God be with you!

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to God.

Let us give thanks to the Creator.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

It is right to praise you, God of all creation;

In your love you made us for yourself,

When we turned away

you did not reject us,

but came to meet us in your Son.

You embraced us as your children

and welcomed us to sit and eat with you

In Christ you shared our life

that we might live in him and he in us.

Christ opened his arms in love.

On the night he was betrayed,

at supper with his friends

he took bread and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to them saying:
Take eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

**God, we do this in remembrance of him:
His body is the bread of life.**

At the end of supper, taking the cup of wine,
He gave thanks, and said:
Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,
do this in remembrance of me.

**God, we do this in remembrance of him:
This is the cup of blessing.**

As we proclaim his death and celebrate his rising in glory,
Send your Holy Spirit that this bread and this wine
May be to us the body and blood of Jesus.

**As we eat and drink these holy gifts
Make us one in Christ, our risen Lord.**

With your whole Church throughout the world
We offer you this sacrifice of praise
And lift our voice to join the eternal hymn of heaven:

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho-ly, my heart, my heart, a - dores you! My
heart is glad to say the words: you are ho - ly God.

Before Jesus's mortal death, he taught us and we are bold to pray in whatever
language or form that brings us closer to God,

**Our Mother, 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.**

THE INVITATION

Christ was always the guest.
At the tables of the wealthy where he pled the case of the poor, he was always the
guest.
Upsetting polite company, befriending isolated people, welcoming the stranger, he
was always the quest.

But here at this table, Christ is the host.
So come, you who hunger and thirst for a deeper faith, for a better life, for a fairer world.

Jesus Christ who sat at our tables, now invites us to be guests at his.

COMMUNION HYMN Let Us Break Bread Together (NCH 330)

1 Let us break bread together on our knees;
let us break bread together on our knees.

Refrain:

When I fall on my knees,
with my face to the rising sun,
My God, have mercy on me.

2 Let us drink wine together on our knees;
let us drink wine together on our knees. [*Refrain*]

3 Let us praise God together on our knees;
let us praise God together on our knees. [*Refrain*]

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Let us pray together

God, we thank you that in your passion you offer forgiveness and invite us to be with you where hunger is no more and death has no dominion: may the broken bread of life fracture our stony hearts for the sake of a better world. AMEN.

BENEDICTION

CLOSING HYMN Beneath the Cross of Jesus (NCH 190)

1 Beneath the cross of Jesus
I gladly take my stand,
the shadow of a mighty rock
within a weary land;
A home within the wilderness,
a rest upon the way,
from the burning of the noontide heat,
and the burden of the day.

2 Upon the cross of Jesus
within my mind I see
the very dying form of One
who suffered there for me;
And from my grieving heart with tears
two wonders I confess -
the wonders of Christ's glorious love
and my unworthiness.

3 I take, O cross, your shadow
for my abiding place;
I ask no other sunshine
than the sunshine of Christ's face;
Content to let the world go by,
to know no gain or loss,
my sinful self my only shame,
my glory all the cross.

POSTLUDE "Deep River" - Steven Scott

ANNOUNCEMENTS - MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Palm Sunday and Holy Week: Palm Sunday, March 29th: Service at 10:30 a.m. **Maundy Thursday, April 2nd:** Service at 6:30 p.m. **Good Friday, April 3rd,** at 6:30 p.m.

Easter Sunday, April 5th: Service at 10:30 a.m.

The Serendipity Stitchers welcome you. **Tuesdays at 1:30 p.m.** March 17. Our gatherings are always full of laughter, delicious treats, and plenty of good company. No experience necessary. Please get in touch with Veronica for more information.

Annual Meeting: March 22nd, following the 10:30 service.

The Whippany River Clean-up Saturday, 3/21/2026: The Whippany River Clean-up! 8:30 am-12 noon. 59 Spring Street, Morristown. See the Peg after the service, or fill out the signup sheet near the MLK portrait.

Easter Flowers and Music dedication: A beautiful tradition at Redeemer is the Easter display on all of the altars and the lovely music that fills our Church through Easter. Any contribution is appreciated. Place the completed form or envelope in the offering plate or bring it to the church office before

Palm Sunday, March 29th. Please print clearly on the form. Any questions, contact Sandra at office@redeemermorristown.org

The Book Group meets online at 7pm: 3/30/26 **THE HORSEWOMAN** by James Patterson and Mike Lupica. Please contact Veronica for the link. Please support your local bookshop and Redeemer by ordering from our online Bookshop by going here. <https://bookshop.org/shop/Redeemer>

Keep updated with all that is going on at Redeemer

Visit our website: <https://redeemermorristown.org/> for further information and to sign up for our newsletter.

Please "like" and check out our Facebook page at <http://bit.ly/FBchurch> or follow us on Instagram - @RedeemerMorristown - <http://bit.ly/Instachurch>.

We are now on BlueSky -@redeemermorristown.bsky.social , <https://bit.ly/RedeemerBSKY>



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Visit our website- www.redeemermorristown.org and click on "Donate" in the upper right-hand corner.
Or (can you tell we want to make it easy for you?!), go to: <http://tinyurl.com/RedeemerDonateNow>

From Rev. Willie J. Smith

On Sunday March 22, we enter the last 2 weeks of Lent. It is known as Passion Sunday or Passiontide, a time where enter events leading up to the death of Jesus.

The Gospels from the previous Sundays us Jesus encounters with the Woman at the well, a person whose is estranged because of her religion, gender and life followed by the story of the Man born blind, a person estranged for not being physically whole. "Did the blind man condition result from being sinful or his parent's sinfulness"? It is amazing how that time of thinking continues to exist today. Finally, Jesus encounters the death of a friend, Lazarus. The Gospel is very intimate.

Jesus' response to Martha and Mary to the loss of their brother. Jesus breaking down to his own lost and the raising of Lazarus.

It is the last straw for those in power, so plans are being made to kill Jesus.

I would encourage you to read Chapter 11 of John's Gospel as we step into the Holiest time of the Christian calendar.

AND FINALLY THERE was Lazarus, the friend from Bethany whom he loved and whose sisters he loved. When word was brought to him that Lazarus was ill, he said, "This illness is not unto death," and when on the contrary it killed him, Jesus was still able to speak words which his followers to this day treasure as among the most precious he ever spoke: "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in me, though he dies, yet shall he live, and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die." But when he went to Bethany and actually faced the sisters in their terrible grief, he could find for the moment no more such brave and hopeful words. "He was deeply moved in spirit," the evangelist writes, and then that shortest, bluntest verse in the entire New Testament: "Jesus wept."

If we could understand all that lay behind those tears, we would understand much about him, more maybe than it is well for us to understand; but to the degree that he was, whatever else, a human being like ourselves, we can understand at least something. It was presumably the naked fact itself that staggered him there in Bethany—death not as a distant darkness that his great faith was light enough to see him through; death not as a universal condition; but death as this death and darkness which he saw written across the swollen faces of the two women who stood there before him. Whatever Jesus may at other moments have seen as rising bright as hope beyond it, at this particular moment death was a darkness he had no heart to see beyond. Maybe it was more than that. "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind have kept this man from dying?" some of the bystanders muttered in his hearing. It is hard not to believe that in the abyss of his being Jesus was asking himself the same dark question. - *The Faces of Jesus from the Dead* by Eduard Van Gebhardt



The Raising of Lazarus

FROM DEACON ERIK

I encourage each of you, in this season of Lent, to dream and imagine the Church of Redeemer in the 21st Century. I continue to challenge you to look at who you are as a leader in the Episcopal church, offering not just inclusive language but a congregation that acts on their faith.

Taking this time to dream and explore encourages breaking out of stagnant routines and imagining a better & brighter future. The church of the Redeemer is filled with people who believe in faith inspired by the hope that life is eternal, supported by the sustaining promise of God's unquestionable love.

Complacency leads to defeat and exclusion. This is not what I have been told is the spirit of the Church of the Redeemer. Actively exploring new initiatives and ministries is the gift of our imaginations. Now more than ever, it is time for us to dream.

I challenged you all in Advent to do some cleaning and clearing of spaces. The specific space was and is the church undercroft, which is cluttered and presents neglect. I have been told there are treasures in this space, and it is time to rescue these treasures. The opportunity to name and identify these artifacts of Redeemer's history will unearth many of the seeds of your dreams for the Church of the Redeemer.

These are gifts that require moving from dreams to planning and action that will chart the course of faith in action, our ministry in 2026, and thereafter. Let us welcome Eastertide with the joy of resurrection.

In last week's Gospel, we learned that Jesus was talking with Elijah and Moses as witnessed by Peter, James, and John. We also learned that Peter wanted to preserve this with individual huts for Jesus and the two prophets. Instead, God exclaimed this is my son whom I am pleased, listen to him. In the moment of this dramatic transfiguration, belief is realized.

Peace and blessings,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Deacon Erik". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the text "Peace and blessings,".



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