



Laguna Country
United Methodist Church



**Reaching Up, Reaching Out
Welcoming Everyone,
Serving in God's Love**

March 26, 2023
9:30 AM

Order of Worship

March 26, 2023

The difference between mercy and grace? Mercy gave the prodigal son a second chance. Grace gave him a feast. - Max Lucado

Boldface type: The congregation speaks in unison

WELCOME

PRELUDE

Jesus Walked this Lonesome Valley
David Atkins, pianist

(Hayes)

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Our lives feel all disjointed as though they were a valley of dry bones.

But the Spirit of God will bring connection and continuity to our lives.

The Spirit of God breathes hope into each one of us.

The Spirit of God challenges us to be people of faith.

Open our hearts, Lord, and bring us to your light.

Open our lives, Lord, and break us free from doubt and fear.

HYMN

This Is a Day of New Beginnings

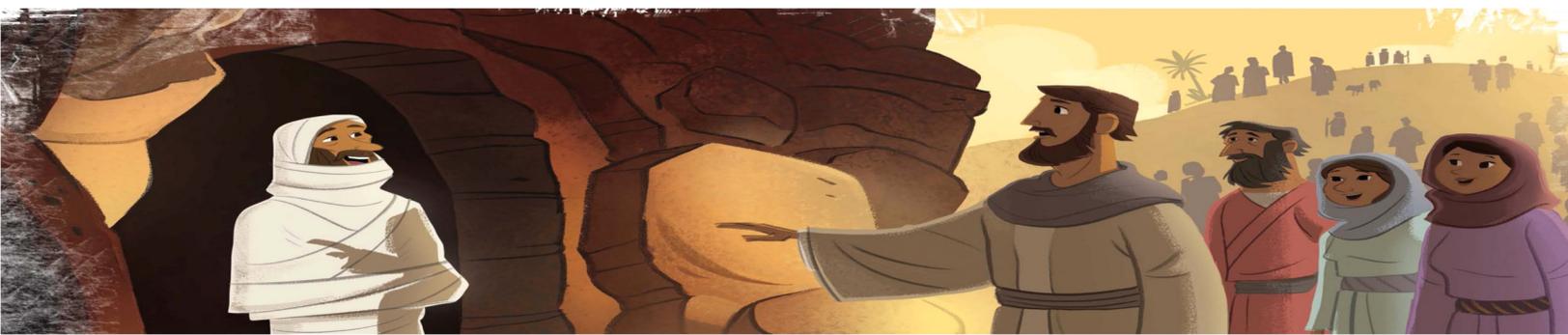
#383 vs.1-4

1. This is a day of new beginnings, time to remember and move on, time to believe what love is bringing, laying to rest the pain that's gone.

3. Then let us, with the Spirit's daring, step from the past and leave behind our disappointment, guilt, and grieving, seeking new paths, and sure to find.

2. For by the life and death of Jesus, God's mighty Spirit, now as then, can make for us a world of difference, as faith and hope are born again.

4. Christ is alive, and goes before us to show and share what love can do. This is a day of new beginnings; our God is making all things new.



Healing and Empowering God, we are sometimes so sure that things will not work out, we doubt even your ability to put things right in our lives. We lack such faith. But Jesus came to show us that our most dreaded enemy--death--can be overcome by faith. Heal our doubts and our longings for assurance and give us spirits of trust and hope. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC

The Prayer
Sharon Holmes & Scott Bonhard

(Foster/Sager)

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

John 11:1-27

Lily Hong

The Death of Lazarus

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

Jesus the Resurrection and the Life

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.' Jesus said to her, 'Your brother will rise again.' Martha said to him, 'I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?' She said to him, 'Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.'

HYMN*Breathe on Me, Breath of God**

#420 vs.1-4

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| 1. Breathe on me, Breath of God, fill me with life anew, that I may love what thou dost love, and do what thou wouldst do. | 2. Breathe on me, Breath of God, until my heart is pure, until with thee I will one will, to do and to endure. |
| 3. Breathe on me, Breath of God, till I am wholly thine, till all this earthly part of me glows with thy fire divine. | 4. Breathe on me, Breath of God, so shall I never die, but live with thee the perfect life of thine eternity. |

SECOND SCRIPTURE

John 11:28-45

Jesus Weeps

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

Jesus Raises Lazarus to Life

Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. 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 for four days.' Jesus said to her, 'Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upwards and said, 'Father, I thank you for having heard me. 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.' When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come out!' 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.'

The Plot to Kill Jesus

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



PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

5

Eternal God, from the reading of the Scriptures, may your Word be heard; in the meditations of our hearts, may your Word be known; and in the faithfulness of our lives, may your Word be shown. Amen.

SERMON

Rev. Doug Williams

RESPONSE

Sweet Hour of Prayer

#496 vs.1

PASTORAL PRAYER

LORDS PRAYER

PRESENTING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY PRAYER

May we be born anew, may we step forth in new life, may we answer your call to us by name in your name, to your glory, in your honor. Receive these our gifts, humbly given in recognition of all your blessings, and miraculously multiply them so that great things are done in your name. Amen.

HYMN

The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve

#2241 vs.1-4

1. The spirit sends us forth to serve; we go in Jesus' name to bring glad tidings to the poor, God's favor to proclaim.
2. We go to comfort those who mourn and set the burdened free: where hope is dim, to share a dream and help the blind to see.
3. We go to be the hands of Christ, to scatter joy like seed and all our days, to cherish life, to do the loving deed.
4. Then let us go to serve in peace, the Gospel to proclaim. God's Spirit has empowered us; we go in Jesus' name.

BLESSING

PEOPLES RESPONSE

Surely the Presence of the Lord is in This Place

#328

Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place, I can feel His mighty power and His grace, I can hear the brush of angel's wings, I see glory on each face, Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place

POSTLUDE

Blessed Assurance
David Atkins, pianist

(arr. Bock)

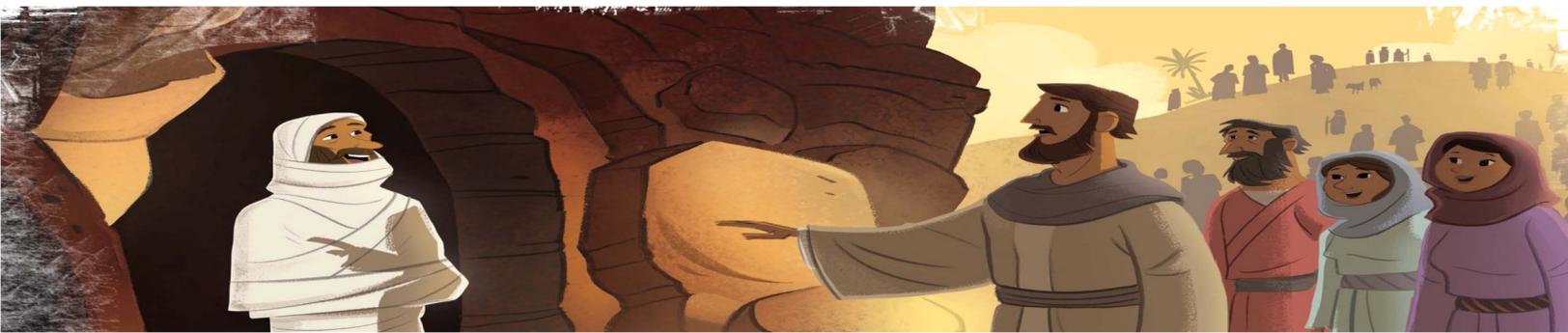


Prayer Request

... Congratulation to Deb Allen on her new real estate license and her first open house.

... prayer for Richard and Linda Butler for Linda's upcoming surgery.

... from Richard Butler, prayers for Linda Butler who is undergoing back surgery Wednesday.



Worship Leaders for Today

Worship Leader/Liturgist-

Lily Hong

Cantor-

Sherry Atkins, David Atkins,
Liz Heacock, Laura Daillak, Laddie
Galang, Pricilia Rodriguez, Sharon
Holms & Scott Bonhard

Pianist-

David Atkins

A/V Tech-

Scott Andrews

Laguna Country Staff



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