**The Presbyterian Church**

**at Tenafly**

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***For Every Heart a Home***

**March 26, 2023 Fifth Sunday in Lent 10:30am**

**Liturgist: Indiana Diaz Cantor: Nancy Smith**

**Rev Dr Martin Ritchie**

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*Welcome to worship! If you are visiting or here for the first time and would like to stay in touch with us, please consider filling in one of the contact cards that you will find alongside the hymnals. These can be placed in the offering plate or handed to an usher.*

**Prelude**

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Joys and Concerns** Rev Dr Martin Ritchie

**Call to Worship**

**\*Hymn 375** *Shall We Gather at the River*

**Prayer of Approach and Confession (unison)**

**Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord.**

**Silence…….**

**KYRIE ELEISON**

**Martin sings:** Kyrie Eleison

**Congregation & Cantor:** Kyrie Eleison

**Martin sings:** Christe Eleison

**Congregation & Cantor:** Christe Eleison

**Martin sings:** Kyrie Eleison

**Congregation & Cantor:** Kyrie Eleison

**Declaration of Forgiveness**

**Choir Anthem** *Lord, For Thy Tender Mercy’s Sake,* by R. Farrant (c.1530-80)

*Lord, for thy tender mercy’s sake, lay not our sins to our charge, but forgive*

*that is past, and give us grace to amend our sinful lives: to decline from sin*

*and incline to virtue, that we may walk in a perfect heart, before thee now and*

*evermore. Amen.*

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

**37**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. **2**He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. **3**He said to me, “Mortal, can these bones live?” I answered, “O Lord God, you know.” **4**Then he said to me, “Prophesy to these bones and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. **5**Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. **6**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.” **7**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. **8**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. **9**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.” **10**I 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.”

**\*Song (Psalm 130)**  *In Deep Despair I Cry to You*

In deep despair I cry to you Lord, hear my voice, my prayer.

If you should mark iniquities, who would stand guiltless there?

But, Lord, with you forgiveness dwells and love beyond compare.

The soundless whisper of your voice, your hovering presence near,

for these my longing spirit waits as for the morning clear,

as those who watch throughout the night till morning shall appear.

Because your love is steadfast, Lord, on you our hope relies;

you will redeem your Israel from all iniquities

and turn to songs of thanks and praise our sorrow and our sighs.

**Second Reading** John 11:1-45

**11**Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. **2**Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. **3**So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, “Lord, he whom you love is ill.” **4**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.” **5**Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, **6**after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

**7**Then after this he said to the disciples, “Let us go to Judea again.” **8**The disciples said to him, “Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?” **9**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. **10**But those who walk at night stumble because the light is not in them.” **11**After saying this, he told them, “Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him.” **12**The disciples said to him, “Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right.” **13**Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. **14**Then Jesus told them plainly, “Lazarus is dead. **15**For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.” **16**Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, “Let us also go, that we may die with him.”

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

**28**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.” **29**And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. **30**Now Jesus had not yet come to the village but was still at the place where Martha had met him. **31**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. **32**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.” **33**When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. **34**He said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to him, “Lord, come and see.” **35**Jesus began to weep. **36**So the Jews said, “See how he loved him!” **37**But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?”

**38**Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. **39**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.” **40**Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?” **41**So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, “Father, I thank you for having heard me. **42**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.” **43**When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” **44**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.”

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

**\*Hymn 286** *Breath on Me, Breath of God*

**Sermon** Rev Dr Martin Ritchie

**Sharing our Gifts** *Just Like That,* by Bonnie Rait

Nancy Smith, solo

**Doxology**

**Prayer of Dedication**

**Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession**

**The Lord’s Prayer**

**\*Hymn 65**  *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah*

**\*Charge, Benediction and Celtic Amen**

***Amen, Amen, Alleluia, Amen (x2)***

**Postlude**

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**\*Those who are able, please stand.**

**Livestreaming of Worship.** Today’s service is broadcast live online. You can watch the service again later via our website homepage if you wish to. Huge thanks to our entire technical team.

**The flowers** this morning are given to the glory of God in loving memory of

Phyllis and Thomas Norton, Sherrie Reilley’s mother and father.

**TODAY - When Stress Become Distress:** Danielle Lambert, daughter of Jeanne and George and a member of the team from the *Gregory P Shadek Behavioral Care Center at Englewood Health* will be talking on the theme of **“Taking Care of Our Emotional Well-Being” on Sunday March 26th** after worship in the church house at 12noon. This is open to anyone, and there will be a sandwich lunch provided.

**One Great Hour of Sharing** – During Lent we offer the chance for you to contribute toward the work of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance through this appeal. We will collect Fish banks next Sunday during the offering but you can also contribute by making a cash or check donation using one of the envelopes that you can find in the Narthex.

**Lent Study** – We have now finished our popular lent study based on the movie *Chocolat*. However, we are having one final gathering to enjoy lunch together this Wednesday at 12noon in the church house. Anyone is welcome even if you have not been at the lent study.

**Invitation to Interfaith Dinner**. Imam Charif from the Midland Park Mosque attended our Nora Neus event and invited anyone interested to their interfaith dinner at the mosque on Wednesday March 29th 6pm – 8:30pm. There will be a program about Ramadan and the breaking of the fast, followed by a shared dinner. Contact our office by 4pm Monday, if you would like to take part and could offer a ride or would like one yourself.

**Presby Readers** will next meet on **Sunday April 2nd at 4pm** at the home of Carolyn and Al Rocco. We will be discussing *Against All Odds: A True Story of Ultimate Courage and Survival in World War II* by Alex Kershaw. Everyone is welcome!

**Maundy Thursday Supper –** Thursday April 6th at 6pm in Jim Henry Hall. Join us as we share a simple meal to remember the last supper of Jesus and then stay for the candlelit service of Tenebrae at 7:30pm in the chapel, with music from the choir. Please sign up for the supper in the Narthex after worship!

**Good Friday Ecumenical Walk of Witness** – begins at Church of the Atonement on Highwood at 1pm. Calling at PCAT at 1:30pm. Join for all or part of the walk.

**Easter Day** – celebrations begin early with a special dawn service in the memorial garden at 5:30am! Join us in the peace and beauty of the early light to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus – and come back at 10:30am for our Easter celebration with choir, band, organ, and brass!

**Easter Decoration Volunteers** – if you could help decorate the sanctuary on Saturday April 8th from 9:30am, then Rick Bower or Nancy in the office would be glad to hear from you.

Happy news that we are reviving the popular Pancake Breakfast on **Sunday April 16th from 9am onwards in Jim Henry Hall.** This is an intergenerational event - come along and bring friends, family and neighbors and then join in worship at 10.30am in the Sanctuary. There is no formal charge for this event, but there will be an opportunity to leave a donation for the Deacons’ Fund.

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**THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AT TENAFLY**

55 Magnolia Avenue, Tenafly, NJ 07670

Phone (201) 567-0111 / Fax (201) 567-0529

Emails : [tenaflypresbyterianchurch@gmail.com](mailto:tenaflypresbyterianchurch@gmail.com)

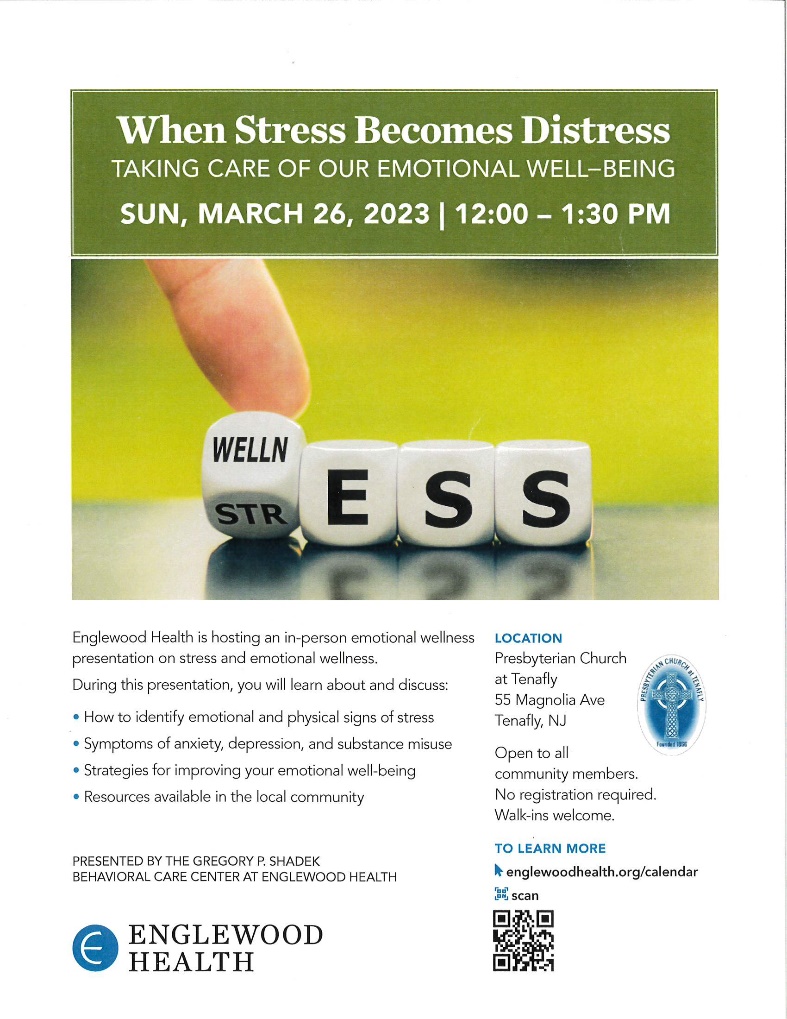
pastorpcat@gmail.com

Web page: [www.tenaflypresby.org](http://www.tenaflypresby.org)

Doodle away . . .

We all have different personalities, and we engage in worship in different ways. This space is left for you to use in any way that you would like during the service. You may like to write notes or you may wish to draw in response to how you hear God speaking. You can use the pencils which are in the pews or bring your own.

We are providing this space every week.

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