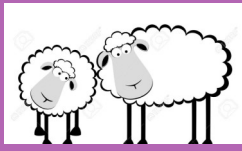


March 29, 2020



Brandon Christian Church



# Flock Talk

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Fifth Sunday in Lent

## Today's Scriptures & Message:

Liturgist: Jo Henkel  
Hebrew Scriptures: Ezekiel 37:1-14  
Psalter: Psalm 130 (CH 762)

Sr. Minister: Rev. Day Broers-Case  
Sermon Text: John 11:1-45

Sermon: "Jesus Raises Lazarus from the Dead"

### Serving in Today's Worship

Music Director: Rick Barclay  
Music Presentation: BCC Praise Team  
Sound/Projection: Tom Smiley

Loved Ones,

This week is going to be rough for so many of us. This week we will continue to lose jobs, lose security, lose the illusion of independence. More states, towns, and counties will issue lockdowns. More people will be diagnosed with COVID-19 and more people will die. We are living in critical and difficult days.

First, I want to remind you that we are in this together. We always have been, but now we need that conscious awareness so that we work together, hold together and heal together. We are interdependent.

Second, I want to ask you to consider that on the other side of this, a better world could be waiting for us. Einstein said, "No problem can be solved from the same level of consciousness that created it." The scale of this crisis invites us to tap into a new level of consciousness to engage it. We will be different on the other side. We are developing a new way of knowing the world, one rooted in deeper wisdom that helps us ask the questions of life that matter most.

It feels important to simply say - You are not alone. You are enough for this moment. You need not be afraid. Remember the beautiful words of Isaiah 43:

Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;  
I have called you by name, you are mine.  
When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;  
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;  
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,  
and the flame shall not consume you.  
For I am the Lord your God,  
the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.

Keep the faith and stay strong. This too shall pass.

God be with you,

Rev Day

## Reminder to Servers...for April 5, 2020

Liturgist — Diane Garthwaite

### DID YOU KNOW...????

The Stained Glass Windows at BCC each relate to a milestone in the life and ministry of Jesus?



This week we feature our last window, East (left) side of the Sanctuary all the way up in the front.

"The Grape Cluster"

"In the same way, after supper he took the cup saying, This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." 1 Corinthians 11:25 (NIV)

In essentials, unity.  
In non-essentials, liberty.  
In all things, love!

## Prayer Needs...



Please save your plastic shopping bags for Sue B. to use to make sleeping mats for the homeless during Mission Week. For more information on Mission Week please see Steven B. or Rev. Day.

Michael (17 yo, broken neck, friend of Jo's grandson)++

- BARNES, Johnny & Danielle (Powell)
- BAUCH, Scott & Pam (Failes)
- BENNETT, Adam (Benitez)
- BENNICK, Patty (Garthwaite)
- BROERS-CASE, Rev Day (knee)
- BRYAN, Thelma (Rev Day)
- BURDICK, Ronald (Skasko)
- BUTTERWECK, Chris
- CAIN, Gail
- COLLINS, Rev. James (Rev Day)
- DENTON, Bill
- DENTON AND KING FAMILIES

- DIGREGORIO, Robyn
- DUPONT, Andy (Cancer, Kathy M. BiL)
- ECKDAHL, Kathy
- FAILES FAMILY
- FUERST, Jacob (Drayer)
- GAINES, Matthew (DiGregorio)
- GIBERSON, Milton (Tom) & Joan
- HUSKEY, Joshua (Powell)
- KYLE, Julie (Peterson)
- LEBOW, Jake (Friend of the Powell's)
- LEUNG, Gordon and Anthony
- MAYER, Vicki (Heart Surgery)
- McKINLEY, Sarah Lynn (Denton)
- MILLER, Brooke (Blinder)

- MOJICA, Nelda (Betty C.'s Mom)
- MOJICA, Ruthie (Betty C.'s Sister)
- PAULSON, Diane
- POWELL, Betty (Rev. Day)
- RIENSCHKE, Nancy
- RODGERS, Cheryl (Benitez)
- SMITH, Tim
- STUEBER, Susan (Solomon)
- UPTON, Dallas (Jean)
- VELEZ, Fernando (Elizabeth)
- WATSON, Tom
- WATTS, Dorothy (former member) ++new name

Please also pray for all those affected by Covid-19, our first responders, medical care professionals, and those out on the front lines to protect us.

# One Shepherd's Thoughts...



*We don't expect life in the wilderness. It is easy to think of the wilderness as empty, barren, dead. But the truth is—there is life in the wilderness, in desert, in the arctic. In every place we dismiss as hopeless—there is life.*

*Just as the resurrection of Lazarus in John 11:1-45 changed the perspective of those who witnessed it—this account of the miracle begins to introduce us to one of the central ideas of Christianity—death does not have the final word. Most of us have heard the story of Christ's resurrection our whole lives and we run the risk of forgetting the miracle of it because it has become so ingrained in our lives. But this telling of the resurrection of Lazarus can bring us back to the wonder. The miracle is preceded by lengthy descriptions of Lazarus' illness and death—conversations with those in mourning—even a discussion about what will happen if you open the tomb that holds the body of a person who died four days prior. The details of Lazarus' death are clear, and so is the message—there can be life even where you least expect it.*



*But part of the beauty of this story is that it does not erase our mourning. Sometimes we want to skip over grief—our own or the grief of others—to get to the promise of resurrection and new life. We use the promise of life to try to erase the pains of death—but this passage shows us that we can hold both at the same time. Through the whole story—Jesus plans to resurrect Lazarus—but still weeps when he witnesses and experiences the pain of his friend's death. This reading holds the tension that life springs forth from unexpected places—and the pain of loss is still real—a tension many of us grapple with in our lives.*

*“Being in relationship with Jesus means facing death and grief with him and learning that still—in spite of the death and the dryness and the finality of the door at the entrance to the tomb of our hopes—he can still be said to be life. Nothing is ever so dead that it keeps him from being that in himself and for us. And in John that life is not only a future hope. Abundant life is always ever now. As we approach Holy Week—having Jesus at our tombs also means that we must follow him to his. We must endure the silence of his Saturday even as we endure the silences of our own. But we endure them knowing already that Sunday will surely come—that when we are walking in the garden of our grief—we will meet him again.” --Meda Stamper*



*Lent is nearly over!  
Rev Day*

## Wilderness

## The Fifth Week of Lent The Wilderness is a Place of New Life—Resilient Life

Poetry by Sarah Are | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

I used to think the wilderness would never end.

I called my mom and asked—

“Does time really heal all wounds?

Do the pieces ever fall back into place?

Does the wilderness go on forever?”

So she told me about the horizon.

She said, “There is an edge,

Where the earth meets the sky.

And when you're there,

You will see daisies in the sidewalk

And the sun after the rain.”

I asked her to draw me a map

And she cried,

Because she knew this road was mine to walk,

But she promised to wait for me,

Day in and day out,

For as long as the wilderness raged.

So I walked.

And it felt like forty days and it hurt

like forty nights.

And I waved to the people I passed there  
in the wilderness.

We tipped our hats to one another,  
Silently recognizing the weight we  
each carried,

Until one day, I realized—

The earth always kisses the sky.

And this wilderness has turned into a garden,  
And I have made it out alive.

And my mother hugged me,

There at the earth's edge.

And she whispered in my ear,

That God was that gardener,

And that I had nothing to fear.

So if you ever ask for a map,

Know that God and I will be planting seeds,

Hoping to turn your wilderness into a garden.

For as long as the wilderness rages on,

I will never stop looking for you

Where the earth kisses the sky.