

**Columbiana First United Methodist**  
210 S Main St. • Columbiana, Ohio 44408  
(330) 482-2382

March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2026

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent

Prelude:

**\*Enter the Light of Christ**

**Pastor's Welcome**

**Announcements:**

- **To order Easter lilies in honor or memory of loved ones, fill out the bulletin form and submit it to the offering plate or Miranda, our church secretary. Lillies \$10.00 ea., Tulips and Hyacinths \$8.00 ea. Deadline for orders will be March 30<sup>th</sup>. Thank you.**
- **The InStep Program needs donations of cookies or brownies for its Build Your Own Pasta Dish event on March 28th. If you can help by donating, please inform Pastor Cyndi.**
- **April 2<sup>nd</sup> Maundy Thursday Service/Dinner 6:30 pm. Call 330 482-2382 to reserve a spot at the table.**
- **April 3<sup>rd</sup> Good Friday Service 5 pm.**

**\*Opening Prayer:**

**Holy God, as we enter these final days of Lent, draw us close to Your heart. Breathe new life into weary places, and awaken hope where we have grown discouraged. Open our spirits to Your transforming grace, that we may follow Christ with courage and compassion. Gather us now in Your mercy, and lead us into the promise of new life. Amen.**

**\*Opening Hymn: "Lord of the Dance" 1,3,4,5 #261**

**Call to Worship:**

L: Some of us come to worship today, weary and worn, heavy with all the circumstances that are too much to bear alone.

**P: We gather to travel God's redemption road together.**

L: Some of us come to worship today, dry and thirsty, longing for relief and peace from the troubles that surround us.

**P: We gather to travel God's redemption road together.**

L: Some of us come to worship today with stories to tell of little resurrections, moments of new life that sprang up when we least expected them.

**P: We gather to travel God's redemption road together.**

L: Beloved, whatever we bring with us to worship today, God welcomes us and calls us to work together as we travel God's redemption road together.

**P: We gather to be truth-tellers and life-bringers as we travel God's redemption road together. Amen.**

Pastoral Prayer

**The Lord's Prayer**

Offertory:

\*Doxology

#95

\*Prayer of Dedication

**Life-Giving Spirit, you breathe hope into our valleys of despair and call forth life where we saw only dry bones. We come today not out of habit, but out of longing to be part of your work that restores, renews, and redeems. Take these gifts and use them to roll away the stones that keep your people bound. Let them be signs of trust, symbols of resurrection, and tools of transformation in a weary world. May our offering, like our living, lean into your Spirit and testify that life—abundant, eternal, and holy—is possible in you. In Christ, who calls us out of the grave and into your grace, we pray. Amen.**

**Hymn of Preparation: Breathe on Me, Breath of God (all) #420**

Old Testament Reading: Ezekiel 37:1-14

Gospel Reading: John 11:1-45

**Gloria Patri**

#70

Message: "Can These Bones Live?"

Pastor Cyndi

**\*Closing Hymn: "In the Garden" (all) #314**

Benediction

**\*Sending: "God Be with You"**

\*Postlude

*\*Indicates for the congregation to stand if you are able*

Dear Heavenly Father,

We gather in Your name to worship and praise You—for who You are to us, and for who You allow us to become in You.

It is because of Your goodness that we rise this morning with hope, joy, love, and the strength to face whatever this day holds.

You have carried us through this past week. You walked beside us in every challenge. You guided doctors and caregivers with Your wisdom when we needed physical help. You brought comfort and peace when anxiety and worry pressed in. You reminded us we were loved when we felt alone or forgotten. You were our strength when we were weak, and our courage when we felt uneasy.

Lord, we confess there were moments this week when we did not recognize Your nearness. Times when we did not call out to You, choosing instead to fix things on our own—or giving up because we felt unable to do what needed to be done. There were moments when You spoke and we did not listen. Moments when You invited us to be still, yet we kept moving, convinced everything depended on us.

Forgive us, once again, for wandering from the path You set before us. Open our eyes to see You more clearly. Open our ears to hear Your voice above all the noise. Open our hearts so that we may love as You love—freely, generously, unconditionally. All for Your glory.

Thank You for loving us without condition. Thank You for the mercy and grace You extend each day. Thank You for sending the Helper, the Holy Spirit—our Advocate, our Guide, our Comforter. Without Him, we would not be who we are today.

Jesus promised that when He returned to You, we would not be left alone. Your desire is to dwell within us. So, we thank You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, for choosing to make Your home in us. For those who have not yet opened their hearts to receive You, draw them gently. And for those who have, help us remain in You, that You may remain in us.

Lord, many in our church family are hurting—physically, emotionally, mentally, and spiritually. We lift them to You now. You are the Great Physician who knows our needs before we speak them. Extend Your healing hand. Bring relief where relief is Your will. Bring endurance where endurance is needed. And in all things, shape us into faithful witnesses of Your goodness this side of heaven.

We also pray for our world, heavy with conflict and fear. Each week we hear of more troops deployed, more families separated, more lives at risk. We trust that those who serve have been called by You, and we trust that You will never leave them or forsake them. Protect all who work for peace and safety. Grant wisdom to leaders and commanders. Let Your presence be unmistakable in every place where decisions are made and lives are endangered.

Soften hardened hearts. Turn those bent toward evil, toward the desire for peace. Let Your light break through even the darkest corners of this world.

And may we—Your Church—be a beacon of that light. Where darkness overshadows, let Your hope shine through us. Where despair grows, let Your love take root. Where confusion reigns, let Your truth be seen. Multiply Your kingdom through the works You do in and through Your people.

We pray all of this in the powerful name of Jesus. **Amen.**