

**THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA**

**Pembina Parish**

**Zion-Calvin & St. Paul's**



*The Light of Hope*

**Lent 5**

**Sunday March 29, 2020**

## **Welcome and Sharing**

*Celebrations: Brian and Kathie Saunderson made it safely home from Spain*

*Prayers of Concern: many things in our world at this time,*

*Minnie Beatty in hospital, the family of Eileen Schindle, (who died last Sunday)*

## **Lighting of the Lenten candles**

### **Gathering Song 14 (MV):**

Where two or three are gathered in my name,  
I am there, I am there. (x2)

### **Call to Worship**

Holy One, like Lazarus we wait for rebirth,  
for the brightness of life after death.

**Two lights for two weeks.**

**We come to worship.**

**We follow Jesus to the brink of death,  
and watch in awe for the signs of new life.**

**We, like Lazarus, are reborn, renewed,  
ready for action.**

### **Opening Prayer**

Gracious God, we come to you in this difficult time, a time of pandemic in our world, a time of anxiety and uncertainty. We come as your people, gathering in a very different way as a community of faith, physically separated from one another, yet close in heart and spirit. We come to be reminded that you are with us, that your love surrounds us, and that no matter what we might fear, you will walk with us. Open our hearts to your presence this day. Help us to know your strength, peace and patience as we move through this time, that we may deepen our trust in your goodness and grace. We ask this in the name of Christ. Amen.

### **Scripture readings:**

**Ezekiel 37: 1 – 14** *The prophet Ezekiel's vision of a valley of dry bones*

**Psalms 130 VU p.853**

**John 11: 1 – 45** *Jesus raises his friend Lazarus to life*

**Reflection** (see attached)

### **Offering**

## **Prayers of the People**

**God of all times and places, God of all people, we pray for your world that is hurting and struggling in many ways in this pandemic....for all its people....for those who have been diagnosed with COVID-19 and those who are fearful they may have it....for the families of those who have died of this disease....**

**We pray for all health care workers, those on the front-lines of this pandemic...for doctors and nurses, health care aides and lab technicians, for respiratory therapists, for custodians and cooks, for those we know personally in the health care system (name the person you know)...who are placing themselves at risk by caring for others.**

**We pray for all who are most vulnerable to contracting the coronavirus at this time: for older adults, those living in Personal Care Homes, those with other underlying health conditions, for the homeless and the poor, for our Indigenous brothers and sisters...**

*(Offer other prayers from your own heart)*

**Help us O God, to find new ways of being the Church at this time, to reach out and care for others, to support and help one another, to be channels of your healing and hope to all in need.**

**We offer our prayers, both silent and spoken aloud, in the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray...**

**The Lord's Prayer – VU p. 916**

### **Closing Hymn 424 (VU):**

**May the God of hope go with us every day,  
filling all our lives with love and joy and peace.  
May the God of justice speed us on our way,  
bringing light and hope to every land and race.**

**Refrain: Praying, let us work for peace,  
singing, share our joy with all,  
working for a world that's new,  
faithful when we hear Christ's call.**

**May the God of healing free the earth from fear,  
freeing us for peace, both treasured and pursued.  
May the God of love keep our commitment clear,  
to a world restored, to human life renewed.**

**Sending Forth and Blessing**