

**Glen Echo Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
March 26, 2023**

Gathering Music

Welcome and Announcements

Rosemarie

Greeting One Another in Christian Love

(Please return to your seats to worship when the lights flash.)

PRELUDE

arr. Emma Lou Diemer

“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: Come, all who are weary.

All: Here, we wait for the Lord.

One: Come, all who have turned away from God.

All: Here, we find forgiveness and healing.

One: Come, all who look for hope.

All: Here, we embrace God’s steadfast love.

One: Come, and fill your hearts with praise and thanksgiving.

All: Let us praise God!

***HYMN OF PRAISE #276 “We Gather Together” vv. 1,3**

**We gather together to ask for God’s blessing,
To turn to a wisdom surpassing our own;
The pow’rs that oppress us now cease to distress us.
O God, be present with us, and make your will known.**

**May all sing your praises, Redeemer triumphant,
Defend us, befriend us, whatever may be.
May your congregation escape tribulation.
Your name be praised forever, O God, make us free!**

***INVOCATION**

***GLORIA PATRI #35**

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
World without end. Amen.**

FIRST READING

Ezekiel 37:1-14

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. He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord God, you know." Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. 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." 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. 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. Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, 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." I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude. 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.' Therefore prophecy, 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. And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. 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.

PRAYER HYMN #575 “Come and Find the Quiet Center” vv. 1,3

**Come and find the quiet center
In the crowded life we lead,
Find the room for hope to enter,
Find the frame where we are freed:
Clear the chaos and the clutter,
Clear our eyes, that we can see
All the things that really matter,
Be at peace, and simply be.**

**In the Spirit let us travel,
Open to each other's pain,
Let our loves and fears unravel,
Celebrate the space we gain:
There's a place for deepest dreaming,
There's a time for heart to care,
In the Spirit's lively scheming
There is always room to spare!**

PASTORAL PRAYER & LORD'S PRAYER (debts)

SPECIAL MUSIC “He’s Always Been Faithful” The Rev. Dr. Diebel

SECOND READING John 11:1-45

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.”

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb 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.” 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?" 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 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 upward 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."

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

SERMON

"Good Question"

The Reverend Dr. Tim Diebel

HYMN OF PREPARATION #395 "Seed, Scattered and Sown"

(Refrain)

**Seed, scattered and sown, wheat, gathered and grown,
Bread, broken and shared as one, the Living Bread of God.
Vine, fruit of the land, wine, work of our hands,
One cup that is shared by all,
The Living Cup, the Living Bread of God.**

**Is not the bread we break, a sharing in our Lord?
Is not the cup we bless the blood of Christ outpoured?**

(Refrain)

**The seed which falls on rock will wither and will die.
The seed within good ground will flower and have life.
(Refrain)**

**As wheat upon the hills was gathered and was grown,
So may the church of God be gathered into one.
(Refrain)**

**Invitation to Commune
Communion Sentences**

Julie

One: In this sacred moment, we look for God,
All: **And find the promise of hope, steadfast love, and new
beginnings.**

Prayer of Consecration

(Please partake of the Bread of Life and the Cup of Salvation.)

Communion Music

“Breathe”

arr. Don Wrytzen

***INVITATION AND HYMN OF DEDICATION**

#354 “Seek Ye First”

**Seek ye first the kingdom of God and God’s righteousness,
And all these things shall be added unto you. Allelu, alleluia!**

**Ask, and it shall be given unto you; seek and ye shall find,
Knock, and the door shall be opened unto you. Allelu, alleluia!**

(Please be seated for the Postlude and Benediction.)

POSTLUDE

“Lord, I Know I’ve Been Changed”

arr. Mark Hayes

BENEDICTION

The Reverend Dr. Tim Diebel

**Please stand, if you can.*

Portions of the worship service were adapted from:

The Abingdon Worship Annual 2023: Worship Planning Resources for Every Sunday of the Year. Scifres, Mary and Beu, B.J., Editors. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2022.

News in the Pews

Upcoming Schedule: The following Pulpit Supply ministers will lead worship services on the following days:

April 2 (Palm Sunday): The Reverend Josh Patty, Regional Minister

April 6 (Maundy Thursday): The Reverend Dr. L. Louise Bruce

April 9 (Easter), April 16, April 23: The Reverend Paul Witmer

April 30: Bob Markley

May 7, May 14: The Reverend Dr. L. Louise Bruce

May 28, June 11, June 18: The Reverend Dr. Tim Diebel

Choir: Judith plans to have the Choir sing on Easter. Practices will be held at the church at 7:15 PM on March 29th and April 5th.

Spring Clean Up Day: Our Annual Indoor Spring Cleaning Day will be held Saturday morning, April 1st at 9:00 AM.

From Elder Chair, Rosemarie Kelling: “On April 2nd, Josh (Patty) will fill the pulpit. He will also donate his time for a question and answer session following the service. Please make an effort to attend the session, and perhaps formulate questions to present at that time.”

Good Friday Prayer Vigil: On Good Friday, April 7th, participants are invited to pray from their homes. Sign up for a shift (or two) from 6 AM – midnight. See Dorothy, Worship Chair, if you have questions.

Videographer Wanted for Easter: Talk with Dennis if you can help.

Who to Contact: If you have general concerns or questions, please contact our President, Kathleen. If you have pastoral concerns, please contact our Elder Chair, Rosemarie.

Building Security: Whoever is last to leave each Sunday, please make sure that all of the outside doors are closed and locked.

EASTER LILY ORDER FORM



Once again, we are ordering Easter lilies. The cost of each flower is \$12.00. If you would like to order one or more lilies, please complete the enclosed form and return it with your payment to the church.

My name is _____.

I am ordering _____ Easter lily(s) in memory of/in honor of:
(number) (circle one)

(name or names of people being remembered/honored)

Please choose one:

My payment accompanies this form. _____

My payment has been added to my offering check. _____

EVENTS FOR THIS WEEK
MARCH 26 – APRIL 1, 2023

Sunday	Worship Coffee Fellowship in Lounge	10:15 AM After church
Wednesday	Choir Practice	7:15 PM
Saturday	Spring Cleaning	9:00 AM

Today's Serving Schedule

Accompanist:	Judith Henry
Deacon:	Mary
Elder:	Julie
Minister:	The Reverend Dr. Tim Diebel
Videographer:	Teresa
Worship Leader:	Rosemarie

Glen Echo Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

4323 Douglas Avenue, Des Moines, IA 50310

Telephone: 515-274-9124

Email: glenechocc@msn.com

Website: glenechochristianchurch.com