

OLD FIRST eBulletin FOR SUNDAY, MARCH 29, 2020

The Fifth Sunday in Lent

A note from the Consistory.

Please accept this eBulletin for your use on Sunday morning. Use this to accompany our Remote Access Service, or you can use it just on its own. For the sermon, check the pastor's sermon blog, at www.oldfirst.blogspot.com. Next to each hymn below is a link to a recording of a congregation or choir singing the hymn. But we do encourage you to participate in the Remote Access Worship Service. In order to login, check the church website www.oldfirstbrooklyn.org for the link, and you can login at 11:00 a.m.

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I. WORSHIP SERVICE

PIANO PRELUDE

Aleeza Meir

HYMN **134**: *Out of the Depths*

or: *Dry Bones (traditional)* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mVoPG9HtYF8>

VOTUM AND SALUTATION: Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven earth. Grace to you and peace, from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ, Amen.

COLLECT OF THE DAY: **Almighty God, you alone can bring into order the unruly wills and affections of sinners: Grant your people grace to love what you command and desire what you promise; that, among the swift and varied changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are found; through Jesus Christ our Lord who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. Amen.**

FIRST LESSON: *Ezekiel 37:1-14*

Lector: Margaret Kearney

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 round 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, '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.' 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 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. 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.'

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

PSALM 130

Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD.

Lord, hear my voice!

Let your ears be attentive

to the voice of my supplications!

If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities,

Lord, who could stand?

But there is forgiveness with you,

so that you may be revered.

I wait for the LORD, my soul waits,

and in his word I hope;

my soul waits for the Lord

more than those who watch for the morning,

more than those who watch for the morning.

O Israel, hope in the LORD!

For with the LORD there is steadfast love,

and with him is great power to redeem.

It is he who will redeem Israel

from all its iniquities.

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, Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

MUSIC

Burkhard and Jennifer Bilger

EPISTLE LESSON: *Romans 8:6-11*

To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, Have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, Have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, Grant us thy peace.

or: *When Jesus Wept (Billings)*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hOVsfYFhNZw>

**When Jesus wept, a falling tear in mercy flowed beyond all bound.
When Jesus groaned, a trembling fear seized all the guilty world
around.**

GOSPEL: *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 for 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 for 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 upwards 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.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

SERMON: *When Jesus Wept*

ASCRPTION OF GLORY AND SILENCE

HYMN **320**: *Jesus Lives!*

APOSTLES CREED: **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth; I believe in Jesus**

Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I

believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: Almighty and most merciful Father, we have erred and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against thy holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done, and we have done those things which we ought not to have done, and there is no health in us. But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us, miserable offenders. Spare thou those, O God, who confess their faults, restore thou those who are penitent, according to thy promises declared unto mankind in Christ Jesus our Lord. And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake, that we may hereafter live a Godly, righteous, and sober life, to the glory of thy Holy Name. Amen.

Lord have mercy upon us. Christ have mercy upon us. Lord have mercy upon us.

ABSOLUTION: Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive all our sins in Our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit, keep us in eternal life. Amen.

The Peace of Christ be with us all. (We pass the peace via Zoom.)

SUFFRAGES AND PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Kelly Greene

Save your people, Lord, and bless your inheritance.
Govern and uphold them, now and always.
Day by day we bless you: We praise your Name forever.
Lord, keep us from all sin today; Have mercy on us, Lord,
have mercy.
Lord, show us your love and mercy; For we put our trust in
you.
In you, Lord, is our hope; And we shall never hope in vain.

(NOTE: Kelly's Intercessions will be new, and different from what follows here:)

For our families and friends; for all who suffer; for the sick and the dying, the weak and the aged, the poor and the lonely, the prisoners and the exiles, we humbly pray, O Lord.

For all who struggle, all who seek, all who despair; for those threatened by temptation and whose faith is wavering; for those passing through trial; for those who forget you in their prosperity and joy, we humbly pray, O Lord.

For our country and people; for those who lead us; for our legislators and magistrates, our homes and schools, our towns and cities; and all the people of this land, we humbly entreat you, O Lord.

For our church and congregation; for this fellowship of love in which, week after week, you speak to us your Word; for our pastor, elders, and deacons and all who exercise a ministry among us; for the Reformed Church in America and its witness at home and abroad; for new life within your Church, we humbly pray to you, O Lord.

For all who suffer isolation, loneliness, deprivation, or illness in this time of pandemic. For our congregation as we seek to respond in service and mission, we humbly pray, O Lord.

For those in need: Andrew, Jean, Barbara, Eva, Albert, Nancy, Keileigh, Viola, Michael, Blas, Stephen, Elisabeth, Spencer, Maryanne, Ron, Susanna. For those in ministry: Jabe, Jack, Housing Plus, and CHiPS. For any others we want to remember, we humbly pray, O Lord.

For the faithfulness of your Church throughout the world, for its expectant waiting for your kingdom, and for the unity of your body on earth, we humbly pray, O Lord, through Jesus Christ, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be glory and honor now and forevermore, and in whom we are bold to say, ***Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and glory forever. Amen.***

HYMN 328: *This Joyful Eastertide*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J7TFuqp97cs>

BENEDICTION: The Lord bless us and keep us, the Lord's face shine upon us and be gracious to us, the Lord's countenance be lifted upon us and give us peace. Amen.

PIANO POSTLUDE

ii. Announcements

COMMUNITY HELP IN PARK SLOPE (CHiPS) feeds more than 150 families every week. Old First helps provide food for these families by collecting donations.

COFFEE HOUR is suspended until May,17,2020.

TESTIMONIES IN EASTERTIDE: Pastor is looking for six members and adherents to offer 5-minute testimonies during worship on the six Sundays between Easter and Pentecost, April 19 to May 24.

Starter questions: What do you look for? What do you hope for? What do you pray for?

**WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE AN ADHERENT AT
OLD FIRST?**

It's not membership, but we take you under care and you not membership, but we take you under care and you can fully participate in all committees and projects, speak to the pastor or an Elder.

iii. Schedule

This Week

Sunday, March 29, 2020

Sunday School - suspended

Sunday Worship - 11:00 a.m, online,
see the link on our webpage,
www.oldfirstbrooklyn.org

Slow Yoga - Breathe & Align -

Suspended

Monday, March 30, 2020

Possible Consistory - 7:00 p.m., online

Wednesday -Slow Yoga @ High Noon Breathe & Align -Suspended

Look Ahead

Saturday April 4, 2020 –

Dzieci Presents A Passion - Suspended

Sunday, April 5, 2020

Sunday School - suspended

Sunday Worship - 11:00 a.m, online,
see the link on our webpage,
www.oldfirstbrooklyn.org

Slow Yoga - Breathe & Align -

Suspended

Wednesday -Slow Yoga @ High Noon Breathe & Align -Suspended

Saturday April 11, 2020

Cooking for CHiPS - 8:00 a.m. - Suspended

Sunday April 12, 2020

Sunday School - suspended

Sunday Worship - 11:00 a.m, online,
see the link on our webpage,
www.oldfirstbrooklyn.org

Slow Yoga - Breathe & Align -

Suspended

Wednesday -Slow Yoga @ High Noon Breathe & Align -Suspended

iv. Roster

Staff

Rev. Dr. Daniel Meeter, Pastor (718) 614-9763
Maureen Doyle, Finance & Operations Director (917) 428-0395
Trentasia Morant, Office Coordinator (718) 638-8300
Aleeza Meir, Organist (917) 902-0793
Abraham Barrios, Sexton (718) 638-8300

Consistory

Elders		Deacons	
Jessica Stockton Bagnulo	2021	Kent Adams	2021
Jeff Cribbs	2021	Margaret Kearney	2022
Ken Nieuwenhuis	2022	Susan Snyder	2022
Wayne Adams	2023	Philip Alexander	2023
Jabe Ziino	2023	Kelly Greene	2023

Officers

Pastor Daniel Meeter, President Jeff Cribbs, Vice President
Kent Adams, Deacons Chair Ron Coombs, Clerk pro tem
Danny Silitonga, Treasurer Elisabeth Gaikema Platt, Financial Secretary pro tem
Maureen Doyle, Bursar

GROUPS AND MINISTRIES

Cooking for CHiPS: Second Saturdays at 8:00 a.m. Cook for the homeless and hungry.
Contact: Steve Lappert (718) 230-0448.

Sunday School Teachers: Joanna Franchini, Matt LeBreux, Pastor Meeter, Jessica Stockton Bagnulo,
Rev. Melody Meeter, Virginia Bouillerot, and Jabe Ziino.

Nursery Staff: Renee Espinosa, Sally Ragudo, and Bailey Olander.

CHiPS Board of Directors: Gordon Meyer.