

OCEAN VIEW PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
67 Central Ave., Ocean View DE 19970
March 29, 2020



SILENT MEDITATION

Christian Wyman, *My Bright Abyss*, p. 72, p. 77

To say that one must live in uncertainty doesn't begin to get at the tenuous, precarious nature of faith. The minute you begin to speak with certitude about God, God is gone. Is faith some sort of reconciliation with the implacable fact of matter, or is it a deep, ultimate resistance to it? Both. Neither. To have faith is to acknowledge the absolute materiality of existence while acknowledging at the same time the compulsion toward transfiguring order that seems not outside of things but within them, and within you – not an idea imposed upon the world, but a vital, answering instinct.

A Stephen Ministry Congregation

GATHERING

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Behold a miracle.

C: A valley full of dry bones is transformed into a people of love and life.

L: Behold a miracle.

C: The graves are opened. Death has lost its sting.

ALL: Let us worship the One who never forsakes us. Let us worship the Lord.

THE WORD

REFLECTION ON OUR COMMON HUMANITY

God of promise and hope, we come to you feeling dried up, like a valley filled with dry bones. In this time of difficult separations, and even isolations, we turn to you, our living God. Your course through our lives is like a continual stream of living water: at times in flood; at times a trickle. Yet it is always in us, moving our hearts forward in trust and love. We acknowledge it is we who, through fear and anger, through selfishness and blindness, dam up and block the flow of your Holy Spirit, in ourselves and in this your world, a world given us by your unstinting grace. We pray now for your continuing forgiveness, for your steadfast love, and for the transformation of our lives promised us in your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. Come into our hearts, come into our lives, and stay with us; any time without you is too long, any place without you is no place. Knit us together, strengthen our bonds, be our hope we pray, in Jesus' name. **AMEN.**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OT READING Ezekiel 37: 1-14

GOSPEL LESSON John 11: 1-45

L: The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God!

SERMON

"Strong as Death is Love"

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

God, the great Creator of all things, upholds, directs, disposes, and governs all creatures, actions and things, from the greatest even to the least. God exercises God's most wise and holy providence according to God's infallible foreknowledge and the free and unchangeable counsel of God's will, to the praise of the glory of God's wisdom, power, justice, goodness and mercy. AMEN.

CONCERNS AND JOYS: Please email, text or call your concerns directly to Pastor Terry at:

Office: 302-539-3455

Cell: 862-432-1196

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERTORY PRAYER

CHARGE

BLESSING

Looking Ahead

✚ Lenten Times of Prayer: Please see below.

✚ Palm Sunday, April 5th:

Psalm 118: 1-2, 19-29. Matthew 21: 1-11.

✚ Maundy Thursday, April 9th:

Exodus 12: 1-4 (5-10) 11-14. Psalm 116: 1-4, 12-19. 1 Corinthians 11: 23-26. John 13: 1-17.

✚ Good Friday, April 10th

We respectfully remind you of the ongoing expenses of our ministry, and of our beautiful Campus. Please continue to donate. We can receive your donation by regular mail. If you need to drop your donation off, come to the office Monday through Thursday, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm and make sure we know.

“May our gifts be a source of light, in a world
that has learned to love darkness”

Revised Lenten Times of Prayer

A number of years ago Karen and I had a course in styles of prayer. One, which was very meaningful to both of us, was to walk in a continuous path while reading and meditating on a particular scripture. This seems like the perfect time to use this style of prayer at OVPC. Given our unusual circumstances, we have revised our Lenten Times of Prayer for 2020.

We will meet in John West Park at 8:00 am and 6:00 pm Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of Holy Week (April 6-8. There will be no noon Time of Prayer.) If the weather is bad, or iffy, text or call me at 717-870-5186.

Our service will be:

Gather in a circle with 6 ft spacing and pray our opening Psalm. (Safely handled bulletins will be available.)
Take time for our church community concerns.

Read, reread and contemplate our scripture while walking the continuous sidewalk for about 5 minutes.
Single file, maintaining a minimum of 6 feet spacing.

Continue walking, using the time for personal prayer and/or meditation. About 7 minutes.

Gather again in our circle to close with our Lord's Prayer.

We will stay safe as each participant emphasizes 6 feet of separation at all times.

I believe these can be our most spirituality satisfying Times of Prayer.

I hope you will join us. Bill Colwill.

"Based on the recent Governor's Order, we will make a final decision on the Lenten Times of Prayer at a later date. If you are interested in participating, please let Bill Colwill know by email (kbcollwill@hotmail.com)."