



Raising of Lazarus, 1517-1519. Artist: Piombo, Sebastiano Luciani, 1485-1547.

## ***Service for the Lord's Day***

**March 22, 2026  
Fifth Sunday in Lent**

### ***Gathering Around the Word of Worship***

**Gathering Music** Mike Kanan

### **Striking of the Hour**

**Prelude** *Herzlich tut mich verlangen,*  
BWV 727

J. S. Bach

### **Welcome**

*We Rise in Spirit and in Body*

### **Call to Worship** (responsive)

based on Ezekiel 37

By the hand of the LORD, Ezekiel was set down in the middle of the valley of dry bones. They were very dry.

**The LORD told Ezekiel to prophecy to the bones; and Ezekiel spoke to the bones as God commanded.**

Suddenly there was a rattling noise and the bones came together, bone to bone. And sinews and flesh came upon them.

**And the LORD commanded Ezekiel to call on the breath of God from the four winds; and Ezekiel called the breath to enter the slain that they might live.**

Ezekiel prophesied as commanded, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, a vast multitude, the whole people of Israel.

**O God, may your Spirit fill us with your breath that we may live and worship you always!  
Amen.**

**Opening Hymn 41**

*O Worship the King, All Glorious Above*  
verses:1,2,4, and 5

LYONS

### **Call to Confession**

#### **Prayer of Adoration and Confession** (unison)

**O God, you are awesome and compassionate. You have loved us with unfailing, self-giving mercy. We offer you our praise and we glorify you. But we confess that we have not loved you and we have ignored mercy. You constantly call us, but we do not listen. You ask us to love, but we walk away from neighbors in need, wrapped in our own concerns. We condone evil, prejudice, warfare, and greed. God of grace, as you come to us in mercy, we repent in spirit and in truth, admit our sin, and gratefully receive your forgiveness through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer. Amen.**

*A Silence is observed for Personal Confession*

**Confessional Hymn 518***Your Only Son**LAMB OF GOD*

You're only Son no sin to hide, but you have sent him from your side to walk upon this guilty sod and to become the Lamb of God.

**Refrain:** O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God, I love the holy Lamb of God! O wash me in his precious blood, my Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.

I was so lost, I should have died, but you have brought me to your side to be led by your staff and rod, and to be called a lamb of God. to **Refrain**

**Declaration of Good News** (responsive)

God sends the breath of the Spirit to raise us to new life and service. Here the good news: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven and renewed.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Passing the Peace** (responsive)

God made us to be vessels of God's peace to bless a waiting world. The peace of Jesus Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

**A Time with Young Christians (children welcomed to the front of the sanctuary)*****Hearing the Word****All Sit***Prayer for Illumination** (unison)

**Lord God, help us to know your ways; teach us your paths. Lead us in your truth, and teach us, for you are the God of our salvation; for you we wait all day long. Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

**Old Testament Reading** (responsive)

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.**

**Anthem***Blessed Assurance*

ASSURANCE

**Gospel 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.

## ***Responding to the Word***

*All Stand*

**Response Hymn 53**

*O God, Who Gives Us Life*

NOEL

*All Sit*

**Affirmation of Faith** (unison)

adapted from *The Heidelberg Catechism*

**What do we mean by “life everlasting”?**

**Even as I already now experience in my heart the beginning of eternal joy, so after this life I will have perfect blessedness such as no eye has seen, no ear has heard, no human heart has ever imagined: a blessedness in which to praise God forever.**

**Minute for Mission**

*All Sit*

**Offering**

*Call to Offering*

**Offertory Hymn**

*Jesus Draw Me Close*

Rick Founds

*Jesus draw me close, closer, Lord. to you. Let the world around me fade away.*

*Jesus draw me close, closer, Lord. to you. For I desire to worship and obey.*

*All Stand*

**Doxology**

DOXOLOGY

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly hosts;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

**Prayer of Thanksgiving** (unison)

**Lord, we give you thanks and express our praise for the gift of life and for all that has life and breath. May we steward and care for all your good gifts and be generous in sharing with all. Bless now these offerings that they may be for the world signs of your grace and mercy, by which all people come to life everlasting. Amen.**

*All Sit*

**Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer**

*A Moment of Silence*

*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 the glory forever. Amen.*

## ***Bearing and Following the Word into the Created World***

*All Stand*

**Closing Hymn 724**

*O Jesus, I Have Promised*

ANGEL’S STORY

**Benediction**

**Postlude**

*Supplication*

Louise E. Stairs

.....  
*\*Notes: Location-National Gallery, London, UK.*



## ***Announcements***

**USHERS:** Polen and Thomison families

**COLLEGIATE ENSEMBLE** Sammy Del Rey, Blake Miller, Keelin Murrell, Mack Overfelt, and Johnna Smith

**LAY READER:** Debbie Trickey

**MEDIA PERSONNEL:** Claire Ellington

**SEXTON:** Millie Davenport

**NURSERY:** Yamilet Bruno Sanchez and Maya Swartz

**LECTIONARY FOR SUNDAY March 29:** Matthew 21:1–11; Psalm 118:1–2, 19–29; Isaiah 50:4–9a; Psalm 31:9–16; Philippians 2:5–11; Matthew 26:14—27:66 or Matthew 27:11–54

### **TODAY**

**DEACON OF THE WEEK** this week will be Sally Calkins. Deacons assist the Pastor in caring for our congregation. You may contact them through the church office: 270-843-4707.

**BUCK IN A BASKET** for today will go to support PLC Scholarship Fund. Buck in a Basket Offering is a weekly opportunity to consider contributing during the offering for a particular mission not included in our regular budget.

**THE AFTER CHURCH EATING OUT GROUP** The After Church Eating Out Group will gather at Thai Thai Restaurant, 712 Chestnut St. on March 22. This group is for people who like to go out to eat after church and enjoy visiting with others. We hope you can join us for delicious food and great conversation!

### **OTHER NEWS**

**TRIVIA LUNCHEON FUNDRAISER EVENT FOR MONTREAT** On Sunday, March 29, our Youth Group will be hosting a playful, family-friendly trivia day, and we'd love for members and friends to be part of it. So bring a friend or a whole team, and let's make this a day to remember. We need you to bring your best guesses, your brightest friends, and your biggest smiles. Whether you're a trivia pro or just here for the food, there's a place for you at the table. What can you expect? Lighthearted trivia for all ages, fellowship, laughter, a chance to support our Youth Group, and control of The Presbyterian Church—First Place 2026 Trivia Championship trophy. Luncheon will be a taco bar; donations will be accepted to cover the cost of the meal. The cost for to participate in trivia will be \$25 per person or \$150 per table. Teams of 4–6 are welcome, and we also offer table sponsorship opportunities. We look forward to see you there and spectators are welcomed.

**YOUTH MEALS** Are you interested in providing a home-cooked meal or purchasing a meal for our youth? We are seeking volunteers for meals for our youth during our Sunday group meeting. If you are interested in volunteering, a sign-up sheet is available in the church landing.

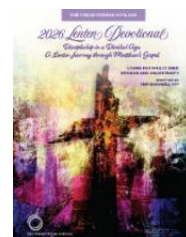
**LENTEN DINNER AND PROGRAM** The church will present a Lenten program for Wednesday evenings in Fellowship Hall. On Wednesday, March 25, dinner will begin at 6:00 p.m. followed by the program in Fellowship Hall. The menu for this Wednesday's Lenten Dinner is Lasagna, salad, garlic bread and dessert.

Lenten programs are designed to deepen spiritual growth, inspire encourage reflection, and aid in strengthening your relationship with God. Please RSVP with Robin in the church office by phone (270-843-4707) or email ([officeasst24@bgpres.org](mailto:officeasst24@bgpres.org)) if you will attend dinner, so we may plan for numbers.

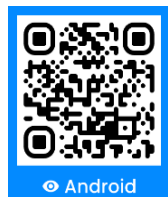
**THE PRESBYTERIAN COOKING CLUB** will again be preparing Wednesday dinners for the Lenten season. Join us each Wednesday at 4:00 p.m. in the church kitchen as we chop, stir, and simmer our way toward a delicious meal—enjoying plenty of good conversation along the way.

We'll gather on Wednesday: March 25. You're welcome to help us on the last day of our Lenten Dinner and Program! If you're interested in joining the Cooking Club, please contact Mary Evans or Connie McGehan to express your interest. We look forward to cooking—and sharing fellowship—with you!

**2026 LENTEN DEVOTION**—You are invited to join us in a congregation-wide practice of Lenten devotion. Together we will read and pray our way through *Discipleship in a Divided Age: A Lenten Journey through Matthew's Gospel*, by the Rev. Teri McDowell Ott. Through this journey we will be invited to discover how Jesus leads us toward humility, courage, compassion, and faithful discipleship. Each Sunday in Lent we will send out the readings and prayers for the week. There will also be a link on our website.



**OUR NEW DIRECTORY**—You can now access our church directory through an app on your



cell phone or tablet. Just scan the QR code to go directly to the app to download it on your phone or tablet. Once you download the app, you will be directed to search for the directory of The Presbyterian Church of Bowling Green. Just use your email address to gain entry to our directory (you must have your email address that is in the directory to gain access).



**UNITED WAY FEED THE NEED FOOD DRIVE** Volunteers are needed for *the United Way Feed the Need Food Drive!* For Friday March 27 and 28th. Our food pantry has been selected to receive collected food IF we can provide a few hours of volunteers during the two days listed below. If you spare 2-3 hours of time, during any of the two days below please contact Fred Kernohan or the Church office. Ask a spouse or friend to come with you. More location details to come.

Store hours: Friday, March 27<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. and Saturday March 28 from 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Sorting site hours: Friday, March 27 from 11:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. and Saturday March 28 from 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

**ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT** will be Saturday March 28 at 10:00 a.m. at the home of Fred and Debbie Trickey (807 Highland Way). All children up through 5th grade welcome! Separate hunting areas for Preschool and Elementary. We will have a cake walk, games, crafts and more! Invite your friends with children/grandchildren to join us! Rainy weather will move us to the church. If you would like to donate individually wrapped candy for our eggs or items for the cake walk, please bring it to the church office. For more information speak to Lilly Hunter or Mary Evans.

**COMMUNITY WORSHIP SERVICE** is Tuesday March 31, our collaborative all-community worship service will begin at 12:00 p.m. and will be held here at The Presbyterian Church. The Pastor of First Christian Church will bring the message, and communion will be served as part of our shared worship. Immediately after the service, everyone is invited to join us for a community lunch in Fellowship Hall. All are welcome to worship, share a meal, and enjoy fellowship together.

**LAY READERS NEEDED FOR MARCH/APRIL** A signup page is online for lay readers in the coming weeks. If you are willing to serve one Sunday, please scan the QR code to visit this link and sign up for a date. Lay reader information will be emailed on the Friday prior to the date. Thank You!



## WELCOME VISITORS!

We invite you to pick up visitor's information on your way out, either in the narthex or on the table on the right in the downstairs entrance hall. Ushers will be standing by to help you find them. Always know that a cordial greeting is extended by the minister, officers, and congregation.

**Clerk of Session:** Debbie Trickey    **Treasurer:** Steve Moore

**Elders:** Class of 2026- Pam Bratcher, Rachel Crocker, Claire Ellington, J.B. Hines, Susan Howard, Mike Kanan; Class of 2027-Sam Evans, Nathan Love, Susan Thomison, Debbie Trickey, Larry Warden; Class of 2028-Clark Carthrae, Buzz English, Julia Roberts, Julie Wedge; **Deacons:** Class of 2026-Phil Burkeen, Kim Ferguson, Kathy Higgins, Laura Parkerson, Dan Stelling, Brianna Trickey; Class of 2027-Trudy Burkeen, Georgeanna Capito, Sally Calkins, Nancy Carwell, Evan Goad, Frederica Kernohan; Class of 2028-Nancy English, Sharon Hendrix, Jan Morgan, and Margaret Stein.

### The Presbyterian Church Staff

*Transitional Pastor*  
*Director of Student Ministries*  
*Director of Music/Chancel Choir Director*  
*Children's Music Director*  
*Organist*  
*Financial Administrator*  
*Treasurer*  
*Office Coordinator*  
*Director, Preschool Learning Center*  
*Custodian*  
*Clerk of Session*  
*Sound Attendant/Sunday Sexton*

*Rev. Kyle Otterbein*  
*Mrs. Lilly Hunter*  
*Dr. Wayne Pope*  
*Mrs. Beth Pope*  
*Dr. Nathaniel Brown*  
*Mrs. Terry Johnson*  
*Mr. Steve Moore*  
*Mrs. Robin Watkins Tolbert*  
*Ms. Kimberly Watkins*  
*Mr. Cedric Whitney*  
*Mrs. Debbie Trickey*  
*Ms. Laura Parkerson*

Visit Our Church Website: <https://bgpres.org>



**Donate Online:** The church website, <https://bgpres.org/give>, accepts online donations. Just go to our website, <https://bgpres.org/give>, and fill out the simple form. Donations can also be made from your smart phone. You may also scan this QR code:



### Calendar

#### Sunday, March 22

9:15 a.m. Sunday School Gathering  
9:15 a.m. Children's Music  
9:30 a.m. Sunday School Starts  
9:45 a.m. Godly Play  
10:30 a.m. Worship  
11:45 p.m. WKU Topper Student  
Ministry Lunch and  
Discussion  
12:00 p.m. After Church Eating Out  
Group  
5:00 p.m. Youth Group

#### Monday, March 23

9:00 a.m. GOD/DOG is Love  
5:30 p.m. Christian Ed. Ministry  
Meeting

#### Tuesday, March 24

11:00 a.m. Special Care  
12:00 p.m. Inspirational Meditation  
1:00 p.m. CUICM

#### Wednesday, March 25

7:00 a.m. Breakfast Group  
9:30 a.m. Crisis and New Creation  
Class  
5:00 p.m. Chancel Choir  
6:00 p.m. Lenten Dinner & Program

#### Friday, March 27

7:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast Group  
9:00 a.m. United Way Feed the Need  
Food Drive

#### Saturday, March 28

10:00 a.m. Annual Easter Egg Hunt

**The Presbyterian Church, 1003 State Street, Bowling Green, KY 42101**

270-843-4707 • [www.bgpres.org](http://www.bgpres.org)

**Pastor Kyle Otterbein • [kyle.otterbein@bgpres.org](mailto:kyle.otterbein@bgpres.org) • 319-400-6546**