



Order of Worship for March 26, 2023

**\*Please rise if comfortably able**

*Fifth Sunday of Lent*

**Prelude**

**Welcoming and Announcements**

**Pastor Sharon Kichline**

**Celebrating Birthdays and Anniversaries**

**Blessing of the Children as they join Living Stones**

**Centering**

**\*Welcoming the Light of Christ with Song    What a Beautiful Name**

**\*Call to Worship**

**Deane Looney**

**One:**    Fear had gripped the friends and family of Lazarus.

**Many:**    **But Jesus released the bonds of fear when he released the bonds of death from Lazarus.**

**One:**    We fear death and tremble at the thought of it.

**Many:**    **Jesus conquers our fears and releases the bonds of death.**

**One:**    Lord, help us hear your words of hope and courage.

**All:**    **Lord, give us open hearts and spirits to receive your healing love.**

**\*Opening Prayer**

**In Unison**

Healing and Empowering God, we are sometimes so sure that things will not work out, we doubt even your ability to put things right in our lives. We lack such faith. But Jesus came to show us that our most dreaded enemy--death--can be overcome by faith. Heal our doubts and our longings for assurance and give us spirits of trust and hope. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

**\*Passing the Peace of Christ Among Us**

Let us greet one another with words of love and hope.

*You are invited to greet your neighbors offering the peace of Christ  
with a wave and a smile ☐*

**\*Doxology and Blessing our Offerings**

Generous God, you shower us with gifts, including the greatest gift of all, your own Son, Jesus Christ. In thanksgiving and praise, we offer you our time, our money, our very selves. In these actions, we proclaim our intention to be a blessing in your world. Amen.

**Prayers of the People****\*Gospel Lesson****John 11:1, 3, 17-45****Preparing our Hearts****The Message****“Come Out!”****Pastor Sharon****Prayer Response**

Loving Lord, Jesus had confidence in life after death. We yearn for that confidence too. The grief felt at Lazarus' death was overcome by His reassurance. Jesus said, “I am the resurrection and the life.” In raising Lazarus, Jesus proved that death is not beyond the hope found in resurrection. Today, we are strengthened in our faith by the mighty acts of Jesus, the One who calls us to come out of our darkness and step into the light. May you grant us courage and confidence by the power of the Holy Spirit to overcome our worst fears and seek after life. In the name of Jesus we pray, Amen.

**Sending Song****I'm So Glad Jesus Lifted Me****FWS 2151****\*Benediction**

Pastor: We are a people loved by God.

**People: We will live as signs of this love.**

Pastor: We are a people blessed with hope.

**People: We will live in light of this hope.**

Pastor: May the love of God, the grace of Christ, and the courage of the Spirit, strengthen our faith and set us loose to share God's love.

**\*Sending Forth**

*How wonderful to have you in worship with us today!  
We are a church family that welcomes you.*