

BLESSING

Go in peace and faith.

If you are tired, may you find rest,
if you are anxious, may you find peace,
if you are lonely may you find friends.

Know that nothing can separate you
from the love of God in Jesus Christ Our Lord.

And the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be with
you now, in the days ahead, and always. **Amen**

PARISH PRAYER LIST

Canon Ken, Bishop-elect George, Joyce, Eddie, Johnny,
Bobby, Adam & Hayley, Cora, Gwen, Audra, Sylvia, Adam

Senior members resident in care homes

Nan, Isabel, Leslie, Lillian, Tom, Sally, Ronnie, Kay

Remember all who have been bereaved

The family of Stanley Pateman late of 23 Eurika Drive

PARISH PRAYER LINE – TEL: 07553404711 (New)

Delight yourself in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart.

Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him, and he will act. Psalm 37:4,5

A prayer from the Anglican New Zealand Prayer Book.

'God of the present moment,

God who in Jesus stills the storm and soothes the frantic heart;

bring hope and courage to us as we wait in uncertainty.

Bring hope that you will make us the equal of whatever lies ahead.

Bring us courage to endure what cannot be avoided for your will is

health and wholeness; you are God and we need you. Amen.'

***Please do not hesitate to contact Revd. Bobbie
or Canon Ken by telephone or email.***



St Aidan's Parish Church
Enabling people to find a Living Faith in a Loving God
by "Serving Christ in the Community"

29 March 2020 : Fifth Sunday in Lent

Suggested Hymns for today:

346 Angel Voices every singing

386 Spirit of God

293 Breathe on me breath of God

10 All my hope on God is founded

562 Blessed Assurance



COLLECT OF THE DAY

Most merciful God,

who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ
delivered and saved the world:

Grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross,
we may triumph in the power of his victory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

LENT COLLECT

Almighty and everlasting God,

you hate nothing that you have made

and forgive the sins of all those who are penitent:

Create and make in us new and contrite hearts

that we, worthily lamenting our sins

and acknowledging our wretchedness,

may receive from you, the God of all mercy,

perfect remission and forgiveness;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

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The Ministry of the Word

Ezekiel 37:1-10 - The Valley of Dry Bones

The hand of the Lord was on me, and he brought me out by the Spirit of the Lord and set me in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me back and forth among them, and I saw a great many bones on the floor of the valley, bones that were very dry. He asked me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" I said, "Sovereign Lord, you alone know."

Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones and say to them, 'Dry bones, hear the word of the Lord! This is what the Sovereign Lord says to these bones: I will make breath enter you, and you will come to life. I will attach tendons to you and make flesh come upon you and cover you with skin; I will put breath in you, and you will come to life. Then you will know that I am the Lord.'"

So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I was prophesying, there was a noise, a rattling sound, and the bones came together, bone to bone. I looked, and tendons and flesh appeared on them and skin covered them, but there was no breath in them.

Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath; prophecy, son of man, and say to it, 'This is what the Sovereign Lord says: Come, breath, from the four winds and breathe into these slain, that they may live.'" So I prophesied as he commanded me, and breath entered them; they came to life and stood up on their feet—a vast army.

Romans 8: 1-11

John 11: 1-6; 17-45

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.

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.

Ezekiel 37: John 11: Theme: Breath of Life

The Old Testament reading is the account of God's breath bringing life to dry bones. God's breath brought those bones back to life.

In today's Gospel Reading – Jesus calls Lazarus from the tomb, bringing life to the dead. Jesus finds Lazarus in Bethany. Lazarus means 'God has helped,' whilst Bethany can be translated "House of Affliction."

There is no doubt that this is a time when we find ourselves in a place of affliction. A place where we need God to breathe new life into each of us; reminding us that he is able to meet the needs each of us has at this strange and anxious time. He does this by the power of His Spirit, his breath in us.

Festo Kivengere, a Ugandan Bishop and evangelist, converted at the time of the East African Revival, wrote about his experience of the power of God's Spirit.

Slowly but steadily we caught sight of the fact that the God we had sought without finding, had always been seeking us. We began to realise that he cared so much about our whole lives that he gave his son to suffer for us and to bring us into that right relationship with him. Jesus and his love became the only power able to draw us from our own deep despair into the glorious hope of the Gospel. (From Breath of Life, Patricia St John)

Our Christian faith is not just about a reward in the next life, Jesus is concerned about our lives now. He calls us out from our darkest places, he calls us to leave the tomb of fear and despair and gives us the strength to live as his resurrected people.

When Lazarus heard his name being called – he came out of the place of death and walked into life.

Jesus calls each one of us by name – no matter where we are, Jesus keeps calling because he wants to bring us out into new life. He knows his breath in us will make a difference, changing us into the people we were created to be – made by God, for God, to be with God.

Romans 8: So there is now no condemnation awaiting those who belong to Christ Jesus. For the power of the life-giving Spirit—has freed us from the vicious circle of sin and death.

Blessing:

May the beauty of God be reflected in your eyes

The love of God be reflected in your hands

The wisdom of God be reflected in your words,

And the knowledge of God flow from your heart, that all might see, and seeing, believe.