

Visions United Spirit Gathering
Lent 5 – March 26, 2023
seeking: honest questions for deeper faith
Can these bones live?

* *Stand as able*

Our Community Gathers

Gathering Music/Prelude

Welcome

God's Doors Are Open to All!
Open Doors · Open Minds · Open Hands · Open Hearts
 Visions United seeks to be a safe place for people of all
 races, creeds, ages, cultural backgrounds,
 sexual orientations and gender identities to worship.

Acknowledgement of Land

One: We remember with gratitude that we live and worship
 on the ancestral homelands of Mi'kma'ki –
 the unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq People.
 This territory is covered by the "Treaties of Peace and Friendship"
 first signed with the Mi'kmaq, Wolastoqiyik and Passamaquoddy prior to 1779.

All: We respectfully acknowledge that we are all treaty people.
We commit ourselves to the ongoing work of reconciliation
as we listen, learn, and live the call of our faith
to the sacred ways of peace and justice for 'all our relations'.

Sharing the Peace & Lighting Peace Candle

One: Peace of Christ Be With You
 All: And Also With You

Sharing of WOW Moments

Musical Invitation

In a Land of the Seeking

Music/lyrics/vocals: Spencer LaJoye;

Invitation to Gather

adapted: prayers by Rev. Sarah Speed, A Sanctified Art LLC ©sanctifiedart.org

One: Have you ever felt washed up, brittle, worn-down to the bone?

All: Have you ever felt grief lay heavy on your back?

One: Have you ever felt like hope was out of reach?

All: Have you ever wondered, *can these bones live?*

One: If you have, then you are in the right place.

This is the time and the space
 where the Spirit says, 'Yes.'

All: Yes! The answer is yes. Hope lives here.

Poem Video

the answer is yes

A Seeking Prayer*adapted: prayers by Rev. Sarah Speed, A Sanctified Art LLC ©sanctifiedart.org*

Jesus of Nazareth,
 Why is bad news so loud?
 In the midst of violence,
 hunger,
 melting ice caps,
 and anxiety,
 it often feels like suffering has a microphone.

How do we hear you?
 How do we find you?
 How do we know your presence?

We forget that you know this feeling.
 We forget that you, too, have wept.
 We forget that you, too, have lost.
 We forget that you, too, have gathered at the tomb,
 have grieved for a friend,
 have felt the sting of humanity,
 have wrestled with unanswered questions.

We know that you are here, too,
 and we know good news rests in you.
 So, help us listen, not to the bad news of the day alone,
 but to the hope that rises with your Spirit.
 With open hearts, we pray. Amen.

Promise of Grace for the Journey**Song** MV#130 Rise Up, Rise Up

Words/Music: Linnea Good ©2004 Borealis Music
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We Listen for Wisdom**Community Art Creation**

seeking: honest questions for a deeper faith

Song (*seated*) VU#356 Seek Ye First (*replace 'Hallelujah' with 'Amen'*)

Words/Music: Karen Lafferty ©1972 Maranatha Music
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*(Children's Programming Begins)***Handbell Choir**

I Have Called You by Your Name

Music: Daniel Charles Damon ©1995 Hope Publishing
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I Thank You, Thank you Jesus

Music: Traditional East African song
 Arrangement ©2007 The United Church of Canada
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Wisdom Reading

Stories of Resurrection *Readers: Glenna & Peter Lightfoot*
 John 11:1-3,17-44 and Ezekiel 37:1-14
Arrangement by Rev. Wes Cain

Reflection

Can these bones live?

Wondering Wall Reflections**We Respond with Prayer and Gratitude***** Song** (*stand*)

VU#703 In the Bulb There is a Flower

Words/Music: Natalie Sleeth ©1986 Hope Publishing
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Our Community at Prayer**Invitation to Generosity & Sharing of Our Gifts****The Work of the Congregation - Announcements****We Go Forth to Be a Blessing***** Song** (*stand*)

VU#586 We Shall Go Out with Hope of Resurrection Words: June Boyce-Tillman

Music: Traditional Irish Melody. Arrangement ©1993 Hope Publishing
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Changing of the Light and Blessing**Postlude Music for the Journey**

Thank You for Joining Us!
May Each of Us Carry the Spirit into the world with us.