

Message for March 29, the 5th Sunday in Lent.

Dear friends,

Grace and peace to you.

Today's scripture reading anticipates Easter. Lazarus is raised from the dead (John 11:1-45). Ezekiel has a vision of a valley of dry bones. God causes them to come alive again: sinews, flesh, skin and, finally, the breath of life. God tells Ezekiel that Israel will rise from its graves, be given the Spirit, and live. In Romans, Paul tells the Church that we are live the new life "in the Spirit."

Good News indeed! And all the more relevant when we live in a season of pandemic. God is good!

God is greater than the corona virus. We are also called to greatness. Our bishop has a stirring message calling us to persevere in faith and love and service at this time. That includes St. George's. We are to care for ourselves and, as we are able, care for our neighbors. (Find it on the diocesan web site: diocese-oregon.org)

Take care of yourselves. Do include in your routines, especially on Sundays. There are many ways we can join in liturgies of Lent and Holy Week. We can pray and praise with morning and/or evening prayer from the BCP. Through television and the internet we can join in worship. We can care for others with phone calls and letters. We can help neighbors and friends. Some of us will have opportunities to volunteer in the community. (And do care for our parish with your tithes and offerings.)

The church office will be staffed from 10 to 2 M-F. (Call first to be sure.) The library is well stocked with books and videos. I can generally be reached by my cell phone: 541-218-1688. Feel free to call. Leave a message if I cannot answer.

This will be my last letter as your interim rector. It has been a privilege and a joy to serve you. It has been wonderful to see how you care for one another, and reach out in various ways to serve your neighbors, both near and far. Thank you.

Pastor Gail is terrific. She is also different from me. That is fine. She will love you as I have, and very likely better. Bring friends, neighbors and inactive parishioners to meet her. Share your faith and love.

This Sunday we hear that God will even raise the dead. Our God is good! All the time!

I remain, your friend, in Christ.

Jim+