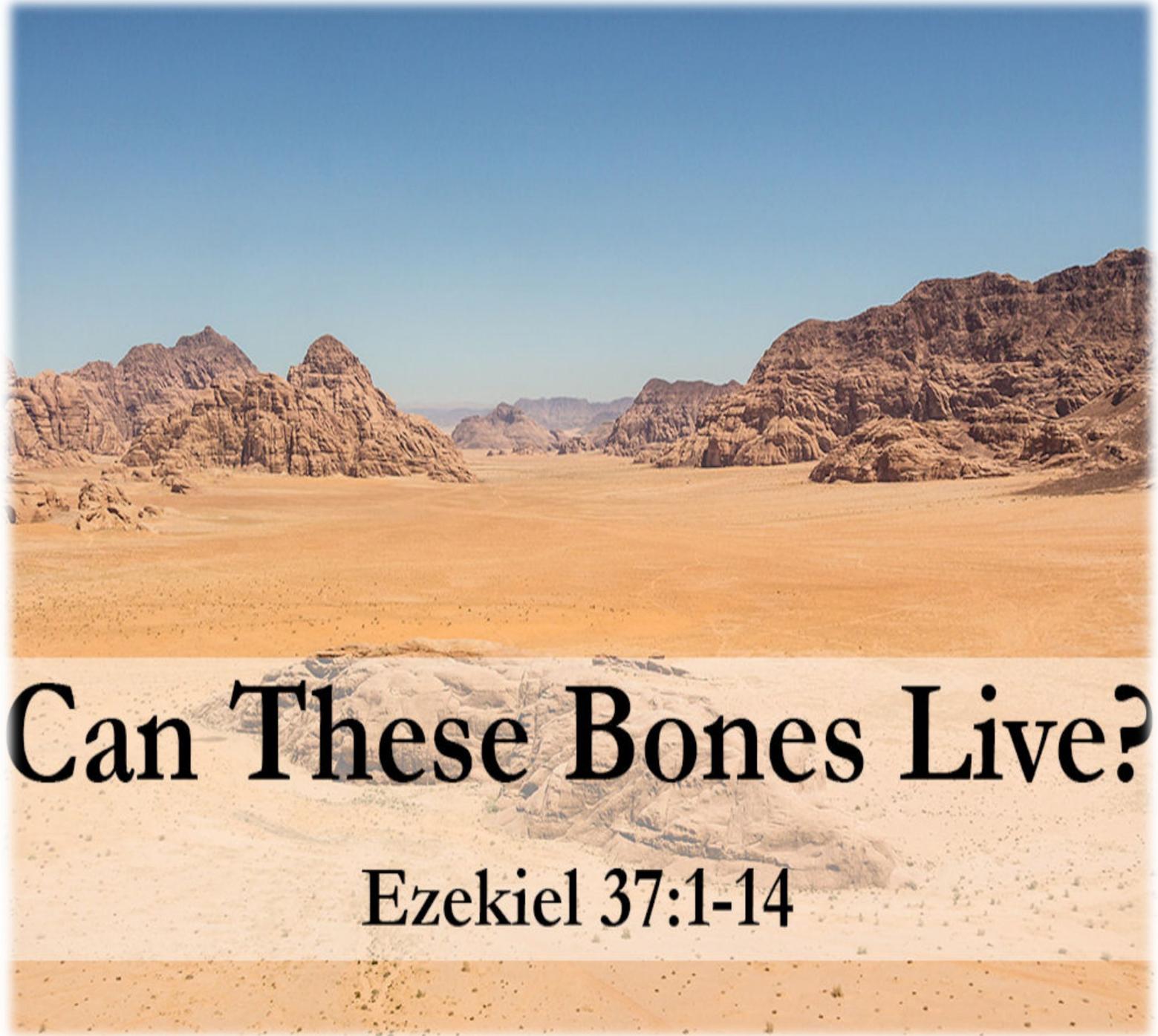


# 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent

March 29, 2020



## Can These Bones Live?

Ezekiel 37:1-14



ST. JOHN LUTHERAN  
— CHURCH & PRESCHOOL —

*A Heart For Hamilton County and the World!*

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## **WELCOME IN THE NAME OF JESUS!**

We would like to extend a warm welcome to all who are worshipping with us this morning. A special welcome is extended to those visiting with us. Have you ever felt hopeless? Have you ever felt like you have run out of strength to carry on? Ezekiel is shown a valley of dry bones where all hope is lost. However, the LORD restores life to these dry bones. This is a reminder of the life that we have in Jesus. God's blessings on your worship this morning!

### **AS YOU PREPARE TO WORSHIP**

- Please silence your cell phone.
- Children are welcomed in worship! There are busy bags available in the narthex with coloring pages. If your child becomes fussy, you may prefer to use the nursery room (toys are available in the room and there is audio and video of the service).

### **THOSE SERVING TODAY**

**Pastor:** Rev. Keith Reich

**Organist:** Bonnye Wenzel

**Usher Captain:** Martin Wenzel

**Elders:** Robert Reich & Robert Witzsche

**Acolytes:** Jonathan Hurst & Eli Marlar

**Offering Counter:** John Parks

**Greeters:** Buckie Pate & Misti Polster

**Trustee:** Johann Jeschke

### **ORDER OF WORSHIP**

#### **HYMN — “Praise to the Lord, The Almighty”**

**Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!  
O my soul, praise Him, for He is your health and salvation!  
Let all who hear now to His temple draw near,  
Joining in glad adoration!**

**Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is wondrous reigning  
And, as on wings of an eagle, uplifting, sustaining.  
Have you not seen all that is needful has been  
Sent by His gracious ordaining?**

**Praise to the Lord, who has fearfully, wondrously, made you,  
Health has bestowed and, when heedlessly falling has stayed you.  
What need or grief ever has failed of relief?  
Wings of His mercy did shade you.**

**Praise to the Lord, who will prosper your work and defend you;  
Surely His goodness and mercy shall daily attend you.  
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do  
As with His love He befriends you.**

**Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore Him!  
All that has life and breath, come now with praises before Him!  
Let the Amen, sound from His people again;  
Gladly forever adore Him!**

## CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS

P: In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

### “Who You Say I Am”

Who am I that the highest King would welcome me  
I was lost but He brought me in oh His love for me; Oh His love for me

Chorus 1: Who the Son sets free oh is free indeed, I'm a child of God yes I am

Free at last He has ransomed me His grace runs deep  
While I was a slave to sin Jesus died for me; Yes He died for me

Chorus 1 and Chorus 2

Chorus 2: In my Father's house there's a place for me, I'm a child of God yes I am.

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C: **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

[Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.]

P: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C: **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

P: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a servant of Christ, I assure you that all of your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

“Who You Say I Am” Repeat everything from first time

Bridge: I am chosen not forsaken, I am who You say I am  
You are for me not against me, I am who You say I am  
I am chosen not forsaken, I am who You say I am  
You are for me not against me, I am who You say I am, I am who You say I am  
Chorus 1 and Chorus 2 twice

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

### Old Testament Reading — *Ezekiel 37:1-14*

<sup>1</sup> The hand of the LORD was upon me, and he brought me out in the Spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of the valley; it was full of bones. <sup>2</sup> And he led me around among them, and behold, there were very many on the surface of the valley, and behold, they were very dry. <sup>3</sup> And he said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" And I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." <sup>4</sup> Then he said to me, "Prophecy over these bones, and say to them, O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. <sup>5</sup> Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: Behold, I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. <sup>6</sup> And I will lay sinews upon you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the LORD." <sup>7</sup> So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I prophesied, there was a sound, and behold, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. <sup>8</sup> And I looked, and behold, there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them. But there was no breath in them. <sup>9</sup> Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath; prophecy, son of man, and say to the breath, Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live." <sup>10</sup> So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, an exceedingly great army. <sup>11</sup> Then he said to me, "Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. Behold, they say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are indeed cut off.' <sup>12</sup> Therefore prophecy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I will open your graves and raise you from your graves, O my people. And I will bring you into the land of Israel. <sup>13</sup> And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O my people. <sup>14</sup> And I will put my Spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I am the LORD; I have spoken, and I will do it, declares the LORD." (ESV)

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### Epistle Reading — *Romans 8:1-11*

<sup>1</sup> There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. <sup>2</sup> For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. <sup>3</sup> For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, <sup>4</sup> in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. <sup>5</sup> For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. <sup>6</sup> For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. <sup>7</sup> For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. <sup>8</sup> Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. <sup>9</sup> You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. <sup>10</sup> But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. <sup>11</sup> If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you. (ESV)

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## **Gospel Reading — John 11:17-27**

<sup>17</sup> Now when Jesus came, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. <sup>18</sup> Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles off, <sup>19</sup> and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them concerning their brother. <sup>20</sup> So when Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, but Mary remained seated in the house. <sup>21</sup> Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. <sup>22</sup> But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you." <sup>23</sup> Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." <sup>24</sup> Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." <sup>25</sup> Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, <sup>26</sup> and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?" <sup>27</sup> She said to him, "Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world." (ESV)

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

## **THE APOSTLES' CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, Born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## **SONG — "Cornerstone"**

**Verse 1: My hope is built on nothing less, Than Jesus' blood and righteousness  
I dare not trust the sweetest frame, But wholly trust in Jesus' Name**

**Repeat Verse 1**

**Chorus: Christ alone, Cornerstone, Weak made strong in the Saviour's love  
Through the storm He is Lord, Lord of all**

**Verse 2: When darkness seems to hide His face, I rest on His unchanging grace  
In ev'ry high and stormy gale, My anchor holds within the veil  
My anchor holds within the veil Chorus**

**Interlude: He is Lord. Lord of all. Chorus**

**Verse 3: When He shall come with trumpet sound, Oh may I then in Him be found  
Dressed in His righteousness alone, Faultless stand before the throne  
Chorus**

**MESSAGE – Restored to Life! — Ezekiel 37:1-14**

“As a result of what you have heard from God’s Word today, what is He giving you to believe or do this coming week? \_\_\_\_\_

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**OUR OFFERINGS** — (Offering plates are on the front pews under the balcony. You can also go to our website, [www.stjohnhamilton.org](http://www.stjohnhamilton.org), and give online.)

**PRAYER PREPARATION HYMN — “I Am Trusting, Thee Lord Jesus” # 729**

**I am trusting Thee, Lord Jesus, trusting only Thee  
Trusting Thee for full salvation, great and free.**

**I am trusting Thee for pardon; at Thy feet I bow,  
For Thy grace and tender mercy trusting now.**

**I am trusting Thee for cleansing in the crimson flood;  
Trusting Thee to make me holy by Thy blood**

**I am trusting Thee to guide me; Thou alone shalt lead  
Ev’ry day and hour supplying all my need.**

**I am trusting Thee for power; Thine can never fail.  
Words which Thou Thyself shalt give me must prevail.**

**I am trusting Thee, Lord Jesus; never let me fall.  
I am trusting Thee forever and for all.**

by Frances R. Havergal. Public Domain

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

**THE LORD’S PRAYER**

**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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

**BENEDICTION**

**P:** The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

**C: Amen.**

**HYMN — “Onward, Christian Soldiers” # 662**

**Onward, Christian soldiers, marching as to war,  
With the cross of Jesus going on before.  
Christ, the royal master, leads against the foe;  
Forward into battle see His banners go!**

**Refrain: Onward, Christian soldiers, marching as to war,  
With the cross of Jesus going on before.**

**Like a might army moves the Church of God;  
Brothers, we are treading where the saints have trod.  
We are not divided, all one body we,  
One in hope and doctrine, one in charity. Refrain**

**Crowns and thrones my perish, kingdoms rise and wane,  
But the Church of Jesus constant will remain.  
Gates of hell can never 'gainst that Church prevail;  
We have Christ's own promise, and that cannot fail. Refrain**

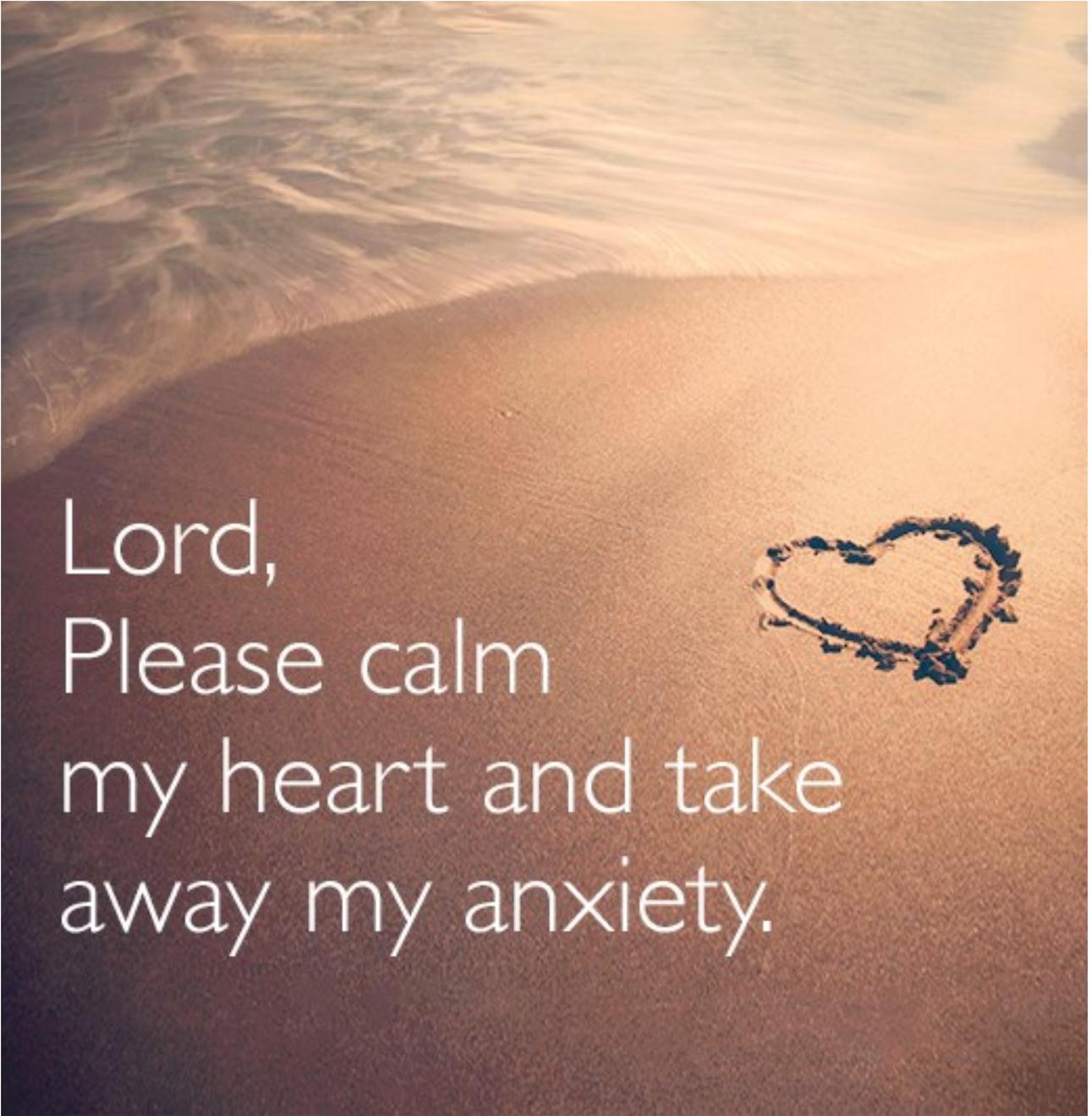
**Onward, then, ye faithful, join our happy throng,  
Blend with ours your voices in the triumph song;  
Glory, laud, and honor unto Christ, the king;  
This through countless ages men and angels sing. Refrain**

by Sabine Baring-Gould. Public Domain

## Words of Encouragement

This is a very fluid and changing time that we are in. No one except God knows what is next. I would like to encourage each of you to pick one or two people in our congregation that you could check in with a couple of times a week to see how things are going and to give them some encouragement. If anyone needs anything or is aware of someone who does, please let me know if you are not able to help so I can see to it that they get what they need. I love each of you and care for you deeply. I pray that when we make it through this time of uncertainty, we will be able to look back and see that this was a time that really strengthened us as a congregation and brought us closer to God and each other. God is in control, we are His children and nothing can take His promises and love away from us.

Pastor Reich



Lord,  
Please calm  
my heart and take  
away my anxiety.