

**Service of Worship for the Lord's Day**  
**Special Online Edition**  
Fifth Sunday in Lent ♦ March 29, 2020



***“Valley of Dry Bones” by Lisle Gwynn Garrity***



***“Unbind Me” by Lauren Wright Pittman***  
A Sanctified Art, LLC, [sanctifiedart.org](http://sanctifiedart.org),

## Emory Presbyterian Church

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**Welcome**

Rev. Andy Acton

**Prelude** *Beethoven's Sonata Op. 2, No. 3*  
(excerpt)

Johnson Gouvea

**Call to Worship**

Deedra Rich and Family

We have been in the wilderness—

**Discerning and working, seeking and dreaming.**

We have been in the wilderness—

**Grieving and wondering, praying and hoping.**

We have been in the wilderness—

**Longing and running, creating and waiting.**

We have been in the wilderness, but we have not been alone; for  
God walks with us, every step of the way.

**So let us worship the God of our darkest nights and our brightest  
days.**

Let us worship Holy God.

**Hymn 435** *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*

1. There's a wideness in God's mercy,  
like the wideness of the sea.

There's a kindness in God's justice,  
which is more than liberty.

There is no place where earth's sorrows  
are more felt than up in heaven.

There is no place where earth's failings  
have such kindly judgment given.

2. For the love of God is broader  
than the measures of the mind.  
And the heart of the Eternal  
is most wonderfully kind.  
If our love were but more faithful,  
we would gladly trust God's Word,  
and our lives reflect thanksgiving  
for the goodness of our Lord.

### **Call to Confession**

Caitlyn Jones

#### **Prayer of Confession (unison)**

**Gracious God, you invite us to plant a garden of love and harmony, but we grow weeds of prejudice and hatred. You invite us to sow joy and gratitude, but we scatter seeds of greed and envy. You call us to tend the soil of fear and denial, but instead we close our eyes and let the earth suffer. Forgive us. You invited us to plant a garden, and we lost ourselves in the wilderness. Clear our hearts. Breathe life into these weary bones and grant us a fresh start. Gratefully we pray, amen.**

***Silence is Kept.***

### **Assurance of Pardon**

Caitlyn

***Thanks be to God!***

### **Passing of the Peace**

### **Prayers of the People**

Congregation

#### **Pastoral Prayer**

Andy

*Written by Slats Toole, A Sanctified Art, LLC*

#### **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 sins as  
we forgive those that sin 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. Amen.

**Scripture Reading**      Ezekiel 37:1-14      Andy

**Anthem**      *Wondrous Love* (arr. by Parker/Shaw)  
EPC Chancel Choir

**Scripture Reading**      John 11:1-6, 14-15, 17-44      Courtney Feters

**Sermon**      “The Wilderness...is a Place of New, Resilient Life”  
Andy

**Hymn 316**      *Where Charity and Love Prevail*

Where charity and love prevail,  
there God is ever found;  
Brought here together by Christ's love,  
by love are we thus bound.  
With grateful joy and holy fear  
God's charity we learn;  
Let us with heart and mind and soul  
now love God in return.  
Forgive we now each other's faults  
as we our faults confess;  
And let us love each other well  
in Christian holiness.

Let strife among us be unknown,  
let all contention cease;

Be God's the glory that we seek,  
be ours God's holy peace.  
Let us recall that in our midst  
dwells God's begotten Son;  
As members of his body joined,  
we are in Christ made one.  
No race or creed can love exclude,  
if honored be God's name;  
Our family embraces all  
whose Father is the same.

**Affirmation of Faith** "Wilderness God" Caitlyn  
*Sarah Are, A Sanctified Art LLC, sanctifiedart.org*

We believe in a wilderness God—  
**Who breathed life into dust, turned seeds into flowers,  
and flooded the sky with stars.**  
We believe in a wilderness God—  
**Who went hungry in the desert, walked barefoot on the water,  
and taught from the mountainside.**  
We believe in a wilderness God—  
**Whose love could be described as nothing short of wild.**  
So, with confidence and hope,  
we long to follow our wilderness God  
who walks with people on their darkest nights,  
**Who sings hope into places of grief, isolation,  
and suffering, and who exists in the form of  
untamed joy, wildfire love, and impossible hope.**  
**Step by step, may it be so. Amen.**

<b>Invitation to the Offering</b>	Rachel Rich
<b>Offertory</b>	
<b>Prayer of Dedication</b>	Deedra Rich
<b>Benediction</b>	Andy

**Welcome Online visitors!**

If you would like to know more  
about the mission and ministry of Emory Presbyterian Church,  
please speak with the pastor,  
visit [www.emorypresbyterian.org](http://www.emorypresbyterian.org),  
or call the office at 404.325.4551.

**March Birthdays**

**March 30** Kathryn Hornsby

**Session of Emory Presbyterian Church**Class of 2020

Kathryn Hornsby  
Tom Peterman  
Etta Quinn

Class of 2021

Yvonne Bradford  
Anita Darden  
Dorothy Miller

Class of 2022

Debbie Grosse  
Carolyn Olive  
Georgette Willix

**Staff**

Reverend Andy Acton, Pastor ♦ Caitlyn Jones, Seminary Intern  
Justin Han, Director of Music ♦ Johnson Gouvêa, Accompanist

Dr. John S. Austin, Director of Music, Emeritus

Dr. Deedra Rich, Director of Christian Education and Spiritual  
Formation

Emilliana Kweyu, Nursery ♦ Courtney Feters, Communications

Shirley Wright Davis, Interim Office Administrator

**Elder-on-Call (March):** Etta Quinn

**C-is-for-Caring (March):** Susan Smith

