

9th of March, 2008.
5th Sunday of Lent.

Sermon by The Rev. Lusmarina Campos Garcia

Based on John 11:1-45

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- 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died...
- 'Your brother will rise again.'
- 'I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.'

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Martha's understanding of the resurrection seems to be similar to ours. Christian faith is based on the belief that there will be One Day when every form of death will be abolished and a complete restoration of life will take place through a universal event called resurrection. Without denying this eschatological hope, Jesus approximates the experience of resurrection to those are living in the midst of death and those who are dying in the midst of life. When Jesus says, "I am the resurrection and the life" he is not affirming himself as an eternal and ethereal re-builder of life but he is placing resurrection into the present time; he is saying that resurrection is for here and for now as much as it is for the future. Resurrection is a metaphor for every potential of life that has place within us and within our world.

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Lazarus was called back into life. John Moyer also. Each in their own way and their own time. God has different ways of calling us back to life.

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Sometimes we are so submerged in our sufferings, pain, difficulties, fears, illnesses, loneliness, anxiousness, that we become like the valley of dry bones described in the vision of the prophet. Sometimes we don't realize there is a wind insisting on blowing, there is a voice insisting on calling.

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Which resurrection do we need today? On which part of our lives we want the Spirit to blow?

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At this moment we will pass around several pieces of cloth symbolizing the valley of dry bones on which the Spirit has blown and the cloth that could not bind Lazarus any more because life came upon him. We pass the cloth one to the other. When the cloth comes to your hands, take a moment to name which resurrection you need today, and on which part of your life you want the Spirit to blow. Then, as a way to affirm that you believe God is hearing your prayer, blow on the cloth.

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{ **Movement** -> Cloth is distributed.

When the pieces arrive back to the hands of those who are taking care of the different sections, they bring the cloth and place the pieces on the altar.

Lusmarina invites for the Affirmation of Faith.}

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Please, rise. We affirm our faith together.

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God, blowing life into death, we believe in you.

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We believe that from dried bones new sinews will develop,
new flesh will come upon them, and they will be wrapped with new skin.

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We believe that from dank tombs will come forth the scent of new growth,
and degraded bodies will be restored.
We believe that the Spirit blows through our breath
and resurrections emerge.

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God, blowing life into death, we believe in you.

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Amen.