

Good morning,



Each morning as I sit before my office window and watch the sun rise over Departure Bay, I am never quite sure what I want to say in this Wednesday update. What occurs to me at the moment is the first reading we will hear on Sunday. It is from Ezekiel's vision of the dry bones in **Ezekiel 37**. Those old bones represented the life force, enthusiasm, energy level, and hope of God's people at the time. It was clearly a "down time." It's a creepy image to conjure up. "*Can these bones live?*" was the question God posed. It turns out that old dry bones can bounce back when God is involved. God demonstrates to Ezekiel that words of promise give breath back, pull us back together as a community of faith, and restore our hope for the future. That is what the Gospel message is about. When we feel dry and lifeless, like Lazarus in a tomb, it is not over yet. That is also the announcement of Easter morning... but I am getting ahead of myself.

When I crashed my bike two years ago and broke my collar bone in two places the orthopaedic surgeon I consulted with was concerned. He said, "*I could pin it, but don't really want to do that unless you want it. I would rather track bone growth and see if it will mend itself.*" I liked that idea better too. Those bones lived. They came back together. I am even running again. Our bones were created to live. We were created to live. Let's not lose hope. The promise is so solid that God says, "***And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live.***" It sounds like Jesus. It sounds like the Gospel. It sounds like Easter, not that far away.

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On Sunday we have the offer of lunch from *Brechin United Church*. Please consider attending the complimentary **Pot Luck Lunch** at Brechin **Sunday, March 26 at Noon**. I don't know what parking is like over there, but will probably just leave my car here and walk over there after our own service is done. There are over 20 people who have let me know they are planning to come. But you are still welcome even if it is at the last minute. It should be fun.

On Saturday we have a **Memorial Service** at Hope for one of our former quilters: **Maureen Reville**. Family and friends will be gathering at **Noon on Saturday, March 25** to remember Maureen and God's promises. If you knew Maureen and would like to attend *by Zoom*, here is the link:

Hope Lutheran, Nanaimo is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: **Memorial service for Maureen Reville**

Time: **Mar 25, 2023 12:00 PM** Vancouver

Contact the church office for zoom ID

On Saturday morning (as usual) you will receive the *Worship service* and *Invitation to Zoom* for Worship on Sunday March 26.

In the meantime,
The Lord is with you.
Pastor Terry